

2010

## The portrayal of grandparents as caregivers in young adult fiction

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*Graduate Research Papers*. 1905.  
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## The portrayal of grandparents as caregivers in young adult fiction

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### Abstract

The number of children and young adults being raised primarily by their grandparents continues to increase (Landry-Meyer & Newman, 2004). If either the grandchild or grandparent is suddenly thrust into a different family structure it can create challenges. Some young adults turn to the characters in literature as models for how to cope with life challenges (Hughes-Hassell & Rodge, 2007). It was the purpose of this quantitative study to explore physical health, mental and emotional health, and lifestyle and social challenges faced by grandparents and grandchildren when the grandparents are the primary caregivers, and how those challenges are portrayed in current young adult literature. Eighty-eight books were identified and from them ten were carefully examined using a data collection tool to determine the relationship and whether or not these issues were addressed. The findings of this study showed less than 20% of the books identified showed a grandparent as the primary caregiver of a young adult and the majority of the books did not portray the physical, mental and emotional, and social and lifestyle issues in a way that was consistent with the literature review.

THE PORTRAYAL OF GRANDPARENTS AS CAREGIVERS  
IN YOUNG ADULT FICTION

A Graduate Research Paper  
Submitted to the  
Division of School Library Studies  
Department of Curriculum and Instruction  
In Partial Fulfillment  
Of the Requirements for the Degree  
Master of Arts  
UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN IOWA

By  
Susan Christine Bunch

May 2010

**This Research Paper by: Susan Christine Bunch**

**Titled: The Portrayal of Grandparents as Caregivers in Young Adult Fiction**

has been approved as meeting the research requirement for the Degree of Masters of Arts.

4/21/2010

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## ABSTRACT

The number of children and young adults being raised primarily by their grandparents continues to increase (Landry-Meyer & Newman, 2004). If either the grandchild or grandparent is suddenly thrust into a different family structure it can create challenges. Some young adults turn to the characters in literature as models for how to cope with life challenges (Hughes-Hassell & Rodge, 2007). It was the purpose of this quantitative study to explore physical health, mental and emotional health, and lifestyle and social challenges faced by grandparents and grandchildren when the grandparents are the primary caregivers, and how those challenges are portrayed in current young adult literature. Eighty-eight books were identified and from them ten were carefully examined using a data collection tool to determine the relationship and whether or not these issues were addressed. The findings of this study showed less than 20% of the books identified showed a grandparent as the primary caregiver of a young adult and the majority of the books did not portray the physical, mental and emotional, and social and lifestyle issues in a way that was consistent with the literature review.

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## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

People of all ages have memories they associate with a visit to their grandparents' house. For those raised in the 1950s and earlier, grandparents might have lived close, in the same house, or a nearby town. Visits would have been part of daily life. Sunday might have included dinner at Grandma's house and a chance to see aunts, uncles, and cousins. Traditions ran deep. Everyone knew the family history and the stories of when Grandpa and Grandma were little, as well as the many antics of mothers and fathers as children. There was a sense of community within the family. As society became more mobile, families moved farther away and visits with grandparents became less frequent, more of an occasion. The purpose of this research is to raise awareness of the existence of young adult fiction portraying a specific aspect of a grandparent-grandchild relationship.

Many grandparents see the role of being a grandparent as having the best of both worlds; they can have fun with the children, but not have to be the enforcers of the rules. They can participate in the lives of their grandchildren and participate in activities as time, money, and geography allow. They can also enjoy the rewards that come with getting to know their grandchildren and passing on family and cultural traditions. They can enjoy the hobbies and activities they didn't have enough time for when they were working, spend time with their friends, and have time to travel. There are certain expectations of how these later years of their lives will be.

The role of grandparents in the lives of grandchildren in the United States has changed dramatically over the last 20 years. An increasing number of grandparents find

themselves in the caregiver role. Landry-Meyer & Newman (2004) detailed these changes over a 20 year span.

In 2000, approximately 6 million children younger than the age of 18 in the United States lived with grandparents and other relatives (US Census Bureau, 2000). In 1995, the number of grandchildren living with grandparents in the United States rose to 3,965,000, which represents a 25.7% increase from 1990 (American Association of Retired Persons [AARP], 1995) and a 44% increase since 1980 (Jendrek, 1993; Minkler & Roe, 1993) (p. 1005).

For many, this change in role is voluntary. In some cases both parents need to work, and the grandparents choose to help out with childcare. For some there is no choice. When parents die, are incarcerated, or are otherwise unable to act as the primary caregiver, the grandparents are faced with the decision to raise the grandchildren themselves or let their grandchildren enter the children services system (Reynolds, Wright & Beale, 2003).

These changes have created challenges for grandparents. Grandchildren also face certain challenges when their parents are no longer caring for them on a daily basis. The circumstances for these changes in the relationship, such as death or divorce, may cause the grandchild or grandchildren to bring emotional issues to the relationship when their grandparent becomes the primary caregiver. Using the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health data, Bramlett & Blumberg (2007) found that children being raised in grandparent-only families had a significantly poorer health status than children in a household headed by two biological parents. These health issues, coupled with aging grandparents, can create difficulties for grandchildren as they try to concentrate at school, get along with peers, and see themselves as having a family structure that is socially and culturally accepted.

Literature affords children and young adults an opportunity to see themselves. Many works of fiction address issues facing young people today. One adolescent responded to a question about why she reads by saying, “I like reading books about kids my age that have been abandoned and abused. Like I was. It helps me find new ways to deal and confront it” (Hughes-Hassell & Rodge, 2007, p. 24-25). Common issues like death, cancer, abuse, peer pressure and bullying are represented in many works of fiction. However, there are some issues that are underrepresented in young adult fiction (Schoch, 2005), leaving some teens unable to see their life circumstances in the lives of fictionalized characters.

### **Statement of the Problem**

There may be few young adult fiction books that explore the relationship between a grandchild and a grandparent caregiver.

### **Purpose**

This quantitative study will examine the extent to which grandparents are represented in primary caregiver roles of grandchildren in current young adult fiction.

### **Hypotheses**

1. Less than 20% of the books containing a grandparent as a significant character will show a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role.
2. The majority (51%) of books, selected for analysis, containing a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role will show physical health challenges consistent with the literature review.

3. The majority (51%) of books, selected for analysis, containing a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role will show mental & emotional health challenges consistent with the literature review.

4. The majority (51%) of books, selected for analysis, containing a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role will show lifestyle & social challenges consistent with the literature review.

### **Assumptions**

This researcher assumes that a grandchild-grandparent relationship with a grandparent in a caregiver role should be portrayed in young adult literature so as to be reflective of society.

### **Limitations**

This study will be limited to the fiction books included in the Middle School and Senior High H.W. Wilson *Core Collection*, published from 2003-2009. In these books, the main character must be a young adult between the ages of 10 and 18. The grandparent(s) must be living and playing a significant role in the young adult's life. The books must have a contemporary setting in the United States.

### **Significance**

Families take many forms, but they remain at the center of the structure of our society. The emotional, financial, and health issues facing grandparents will continue to be important. Organizations such as the National Center of Grandparents Raising Grandchildren have been created for the purpose of giving grandparents a voice in policy making as well as to connect them with available services.

Many young people being raised by grandparents are “burdened with everything from emotional, behavioral, psychological, medical, and academic problems to physical disabilities from a parent’s prenatal drug and alcohol abuse” (Glass & Huneycutt, 2002b, p. 247). School performance may suffer, and “some grandparents do not feel competent to help their grandchildren in today’s public schools” (Glass & Huneycutt, 2002a, p. 157). As more young adults are in families with a grandparent at the head, they look to young adult fiction to see how their own life circumstances and the obstacles they face are represented (Hughes-Hassell & Rodge, 2007).

## **CHAPTER 2**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

An increasing number of grandparents are finding themselves in a different role than they expected. They are raising their grandchildren. This new role presents some challenges for both the grandparent and grandchild (Landry-Meyer & Newman, 2004). Many adolescents look to fiction as a source of not only entertainment, but as a place to see their own experiences mirrored. This can be a tool for adolescents to use in coping with related problems (Hughes-Hassell & Rodge, 2007). An issue that may be underrepresented in young adult literature is grandchildren being raised by grandparents. The literature reviewed that relates to this issue falls into three categories: challenges faced by grandparents when they are caregivers, challenges faced by grandchildren being raised by their grandparents, and how young adults readers use fiction.

#### **Challenges Faced by Grandparents**

As parents get older, they have certain expectations about how their lives will look. As they become grandparents, they may rehearse this role by envisioning things they will teach their grandchildren, places they will take them, and experiences that will be shared together. They also have expectations for the time when they are not with their grandchildren. This time might include travel, hobbies, and time spent with their peers. For many though, circumstances require them to take on an active parenting role in the lives of their grandchildren, and their previous expectations are incongruous with real life (Landry-Meyer & Newman, 2004).

In a qualitative study, Landry-Meyer and Newman (2004) used role theory to explore three different aspects of the experiences grandparents have in a caregiver role

and whether caregiver grandparents felt that they were off-time, or out-of-sync with the timing of becoming grandparents; whether the role of caregiver grandparent was defined or ambiguous; whether there is role conflict for caregiver grandparents.

A sample of grandparents in central Ohio was recruited to participate in the study (Landry-Meyer & Newman, 2004). Of the 58 original grandparents contacted, 26 met the three criteria and agreed to participate. Participants needed to be the primary caregiver for a grandchild and needed to co-reside with their grandchild, with neither of the grandchild's parents living in the same household. The age range of the grandparents was 43 to 66, with the average age being 53 years. All of the participants were female but one. Group participants were 65% White, 31% African American, and 4% Asian. The numbers of grandchildren ranged from 1 to 6. All grandparent participants had a legal, custodial relationship with their grandchild or grandchildren.

The participants were interviewed face-to-face using questions designed to collect information about the changes they had experienced since becoming caregiver grandparents. They were also asked about their expectations prior to becoming a grandparent and their role as caregiver grandparent. The tapes of these interviews were transcribed and the data were analyzed, looking for sentences and phrases relating to roles (Landry-Meyer & Newman, 2004).

Landry-Meyer and Newman (2004) found the majority of the participants expressed that the ongoing, daily responsibilities of being the primary caregiver for their grandchild was unanticipated and off-time. This role was not consistent with their expectation of how this stage of life would be. Several participants "gave voice to the concept of recycling the parent role or going back to a previous stage in life, further

emphasizing incongruence between life stage and parental role enactment” (p. 1015).

With regard to role ambiguity, the participants felt that their role as grandparent caregiver was defined rather than ambiguous. This was not the expectation of the researchers. The reason for this seemed to be a result of the legal, custodial relationship all of these caregiver grandparents had with their grandchildren. Due to their custodial relationship, they didn’t face difficulties when enrolling their grandchildren in school or obtaining medical care as they might have if the relationship had not been legally defined. The participants expressed, however, a sense of role conflict. They struggled with the contrast between how they expected to be able to behave as grandparents and how they had to behave as their grandchild’s primary caregiver. In this small sample, the results matched what the researchers expected to find in regard to role timing and role conflict, but with regard to role ambiguity, the findings were not consistent with their expectation.

Many challenges face grandparents when they find themselves in a surrogate parent role. Some of these challenges are internal, dealing with their own feelings toward this situation; and some are external and involve the parent of the grandchild and they vary depending on the situation.

Erbert and Aleman (2008) also noted the contradictory feelings of caregiver grandparents. The purpose of their qualitative study was to explore the contradictory feelings that grandparents expressed when put in the position of being the primary caregiver of their grandchild. They sought to answer the question, “What dialectical contradictions, if any, are perceived by grandparents who serve as surrogate parents to their grandchildren?” (p. 675).



Students in a graduate seminar on qualitative research recruited 45 grandparents in a medium-sized southwestern city to participate in this study. The grandparents needed to have been the primary caregiver of at least one grandchild within the last 6 months, if they weren't so currently. In addition to this, the parent of the child or children could not be living in the same residence. The age range of grandparents participating was 45 years to 79 years, with the average age being 61 years. Women made up 88.9% and men made up 11.1% of the group. Group participants were 68.9% Hispanic, 24.4% Caucasian, and 6.6% African-American. The numbers of grandchildren ranged from 1 to 4 currently living with them. Some grandparents reported that their grandchild was no longer living with them but had been within the last 6 months (Erbert & Aleman, 2008).

Participants were interviewed using 16 open-ended questions designed to encourage them to describe their relationship with their grandchildren and reflect on the challenges they faced and the support they received. Interviews were taped and transcribed. Three of the 45 interviews were conducted in Spanish, the primary language of those participants. The interview transcripts were read several times to fully interpret the stories told by the grandparents. Each account was counted as a unit for analysis. Erbert and Aleman (2008) carefully examined these units for dialectical tensions. Broad categories of contradictions were identified from the specific examples in the transcripts.

Erbert and Aleman (2008) found that there were three primary contradictions that grandparents experienced. The opposing feelings of connection versus separation, stability versus change, and protection versus expression were indicated by the interviews. Each of these contradictions was then further broken down into *radicals*, or

variations on the larger theme. A model was created mapping out the contradictions and radiants, which made clear the opposing relationships between the feelings the grandparents experienced.

**Contradiction #1: Connection vs. separation-** Grandparents love their grandchildren and want to be connected. They feel an obligation and a sense that the grandchildren are a blessing in their life, but they also want to be able to participate in the activities with others their own age, free from the responsibility of raising children again.

**Radiant #1: Responsibility-for vs. freedom-from**

**Radiant #2: Desire vs. obligation**

**Radiant #3: Blessing vs. sacrifice**

**Radiant #4: Safety vs. threat**

**Contradiction #2: Stability vs. change-** Grandparents struggle with the desire to provide stability for their grandchildren and the need for their own lives to remain consistent with what their expectation for what later life would be.

**Radiant #1: Health vs. illness**

**Radiant #2: Youthfulness vs. aging**

**Contradiction #3: Protection vs. expression-** Grandparents struggle with how much to allow their grandchildren to do and where to draw the line.

**Radiant #1: Parent vs. grandparent**

**Radiant #2: Permissiveness vs. discipline**

Erbert and Aleman (2008) found that while there are many opposing feelings perceived by surrogate grandparents, the model created shows how these feelings are actually connected and overlapping. These opposing feelings created challenges for

surrogate grandparents that were always changing. Another study investigated some physical health challenges facing grandparents in a caregiver role.

An increasing number of grandparents are the primary caregiver for their grandchildren. Minkler and Fuller-Thompson (1999) attempted to fill a gap in the research concerning the health of custodial grandparents in the 1990s: grandparents' self-assessment of their health, satisfaction with their health, and the limitations they experience due to their health.

Using data collected during 1992-1994 as part of the National Survey of Families and Households, Minkler and Fuller-Thompson (1999) looked at a subsample of 3,477 respondents who had one grandchild or two or more grandchildren. A grandparent caregiver was defined as a grandparent who had had the primary responsibility for any of their grandchildren for 6 months or more. The final number of participants was 173. Respondents were asked a series of questions concerning the degree to which their physical or mental condition limited various activities. The six areas asked about were "mobility inside the house, completing household tasks, climbing stairs, walking 6 blocks, doing heavy tasks, and working for pay" (p. 1385). There were three choices for these questions: "does not limit at all, limits a little, and limits a lot" (p. 1385). These responses were coded and analyzed with logistic regression. Their health satisfaction was determined using a 7-point Likert scale. Minkler and Fuller-Thompson (1999) found that the custodial grandparents reported a significantly higher rate of limitations in all areas than noncustodial grandparents. In addition, custodial grandparents reported a significantly lower satisfaction with their health.

Many grandparents care for their grandchildren on a full-time basis. Often, agencies which could provide support for these grandparents aren't aware of the extent to which the grandparents' health is affected physically, emotionally and mentally. Gibbons and Jones (2003) examined the health status of grandparents raising their grandchildren.

The primary focus of this qualitative and quantitative study was to determine the health status of the grandparents and their perceptions of how the care-giving arrangement had influenced their health (Gibbons & Jones, 2003). Two hundred eleven grandparents were contacted from four mid-Michigan counties through relatively new caregiver groups. Word was sent informally throughout these communities. Grandparents attended informational meetings and then completed a consent and questionnaire either at the meeting or later at home. Sixty-one (31%) questionnaires were returned and 68% of the grandparents responding were female. Caucasians made up 77% of the group, African-Americans 14%, and 9% were from other racial/ethnic backgrounds. The age range of the grandparents was 40 to 85 years with the average age of 56 years. Sixty-nine percent of the custody arrangements were formal.

Gibbons and Jones (2003) used two multiple choice questionnaires. The first of the two instruments, called the Medical Outcomes Trust SF-36 TM Health Survey, contained 36 questions and "was used to measure physical, mental, emotional, social and role functioning, bodily pain, general health and vitality" (p. 6). The responses to these questions were compared to national norms based on responses from the 1989 and 1990 General Social Survey. The second measure, a 60-item questionnaire, entitled the "Grandparent Assessment Tool" (GAT), gathered demographic information as well as grandparents' perceptions of the physical and emotional impact of caring for their

grandchildren (p. 6). Grandparents were asked to compare, using a 3 to 4 point Likert-type scale, their health before and after they began caring for their grandchildren, and to also rate how much their health played a part in agreeing to care for their grandchildren.

Gibbons and Jones (2003) found that grandparents who were raising their grandchildren scored highest on the physical functioning subscale, followed by social and emotional functioning and mental health subscales. Grandparents scored lowest on the vitality and body pain subscales. On the GAT, nearly 70% of grandparents rated their overall physical health as good to excellent. “Seventy-one and 77% of the grandparents reported that their physical and emotional health respectively was at least the same, if not better, as a result of caring for their grandchild/children” (p. 10). Twenty-nine percent indicated that their physical and/or emotional health had suffered. The physical health of 57% of grandparents had been directly impacted from caring for their grandchildren and 43% had not been impacted. The emotional health of 68% of grandparents was affected by caring for their grandchildren, and 32% had not been affected. Eighty-two percent of grandparents reported that neither their emotional or physical health played a role in their decision to care for their grandchildren.

In summary, studies by Landry-Meyer and Newman (2004) and Erbert and Aleman (2008) indicated that grandparents faced conflicting feelings which create emotional challenges when providing care for their grandchildren. Physical challenges for grandparent caregivers were presented in studies by Minkler and Fuller-Thompson (1999) and Gibbons and Jones (2003).

### **Challenges Faced by Grandchildren**

In the United States there are many different family structures. In addition to traditional families headed by two biological parents, many children are being raised in households headed by a single mother or single father. Families may also contain a step parent, sometimes one who has adopted the child. Grandparents can also head the household as primary caregiver, often in the absence of either biological parent. Children in these non-traditional family structures are impacted differently. Data on single-father and grandparent-led families are sparse. Bramlett and Blumberg (2007) examined the mental and physical health of these two groups of children, compared to children living in a household with two biological parents.

Bramlett and Blumberg (2007) looked at sixteen health indicators: nine physical health indicators, six mental health indicators, and one measure of special health care needs. The physical health indicators covered a wide range of physical issues: overall health, overall dental health, injury requiring medical attention, school absences, asthma-related health issues, respiratory allergies, food allergies, skin allergies, and frequency of headaches. The mental health indicators covered difficulty with emotions/concentration/behavior/getting along, or behavior problems requiring ongoing treatment or counseling. Parental notification of learning disabilities, depression/anxiety, ADD/ADHD, or behavior/conduct problems was also included with the mental health indicators. The indication of the special health care needs of the child could be a result of mental or physical health problems.

Bramlett and Blumberg (2007) used data from the 2003 National Survey of Children's Health. Their survey was a random-digit-dial household telephone survey. In

the households with children, one child under the age of eighteen was selected as the target for the questions. A total of 102,353 interviews were completed from January 2003 through January 2004. During the interview, the family structure and the relationship of the respondent to the child were established. Data collected about the children in each of the family structure groups were compared on eight socioeconomic and demographic characteristics. The data were adjusted to account for these demographic differences so the health of the children in different family structures could be compared as if the groups had the same demographics. Each group was then compared to a family headed by two biological parents.

Bramlett and Blumberg (2007) found the data indicated that, when compared to a family headed by two biological parents, children living in other family structures studied had poorer mental and physical health. The physical and mental health of children in grandparent-only households differed significantly from children in households with two biological parents. These children were almost twice as likely to have special health care needs or asthma-related health problems. They were “more than twice as likely to have attention deficit disorder (ADD) or attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or moderate or severe difficulty with emotions, concentration, behavior, or getting along with others” (pp. 554-555). They were approximately “four times as likely to have behavioral/conduct problems, depression/anxiety, or an emotional/developmental/behavioral problem requiring treatment or counseling” (p. 555).

One question raised by Bramlett and Blumberg (2007) concerning grandparent-only households was whether the grandchild’s mental health issues were a result of their living arrangements or the circumstances that brought them to that situation.

Grandchildren being raised by grandparents may not have the same access to health insurance as children in households with two biological parents.

Although there have been a number of studies looking at the greater risk of behavior and emotional difficulties in children raised by custodial grandparents, the limited amount of data collected by each of these studies has made it difficult to generalize their findings. Smith and Palmieri (2007) used a large, national data set from which to draw their conclusions. They sought to show the extent to which custodial grandchildren are at an increased risk of emotional and behavioral difficulties. They asked three questions.

1. Would grandmothers report a higher incidence of behavior and emotional problems in custodial grandchildren than the caregivers in the NHIS, and would there be a higher report of males than females?
2. Would custodial grandchildren of grandmothers recruited by population-based or convenience methods differ from each other, and would either group or both groups differ from the NHIS sample?
3. Do race differences exist within the sample of custodial grandchildren, and how does this compare to the NHIS sample group?

They also wanted to classify the custodial grandchildren into low-difficulties, medium-difficulties, and high-difficulties groups in order to compare them to similarly banded groups in the NHIS sample.

Smith and Palmieri (2007) asked a national sample of 366 black and 367 white custodial grandmothers to complete the Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire (SDQ).



The data collected from this survey were compared to the data collected from 9,878 caregivers on the 2001 National Health Interview Survey (NHIS).

Smith and Palmieri (2007) obtained custodial grandmother participants in two ways: population-based sampling and convenience sampling. They collected a population-based sample by sending a letter to gather information. They asked if the household contained a grandmother or if members knew of a grandmother who was providing full-time care to custodial grandchildren between the ages of 4 and 17 without the presence of either biological parent. Convenience sampling involved contacting community organizations, churches, social service agencies, and mass media appeals. The respondents to these requests were screened, and those meeting the criteria were interviewed by phone. The SDQ contained “25 items divided equally among five scales: emotional symptoms, conduct problems, hyperactivity and inattention, peer problems, and prosocial behavior” (p. 1305). Each question was rated on a 3-point scale with 0 being not true and 3 being certainly true.

Smith and Palmieri (2007) compared the SDQ scores for custodial grandchildren with the scores for children in the NHIS sample. “Regardless of the child’s gender, grandmothers reported more difficulties than did caregivers from the NHIS sample across all SDQ scales” (p. 1305). Males were scored showing significantly more difficulties than females on all items of the scale with the exception of emotional difficulties. With regard to race, the “white grandmothers reported significantly more difficulties with custodial grandchildren than did black grandmothers on each subscale except conduct problems and prosocial behavior” (p. 1306). Comparison of the scores showed that the recruitment methods did not significantly impact the reported results. Smith and Palmieri

(2007) concluded that, consistent with their hypotheses, custodial grandchildren were at a greater risk for emotional and behavioral problems than children in other caregiver situations.

There was little empirical data concerning the school-related functioning of children raised exclusively by their grandparents. Edwards (2006) sought to expand the body of information available with regard to how teachers perceived the emotional and behavioral functioning of African American children being raised by grandparents and if teachers thought they should receive more intervention services.

Permission for inclusion in this study by Edwards (2006) was granted by 8 of the 10 school districts that were approached. These eight schools were large urban schools located in the southeastern United States. From these schools a group of students was chosen to participate. The group of 54 African American students, grades 3 to 5, being raised by their grandparents, consisted of 30 boys and 24 girls. A comparison group with the same low SES status, ethnicity, caregiver education, gender, grade, and age was chosen. Twenty-seven teachers, grades 3 to 5, participated. The grandparents and parents of the students were given a permission form/survey to complete. The teachers were also given a survey to complete. The parents and grandparents surveyed were told that their answers would be used to help teachers understand and support students. The teachers were told the answers given would provide information about the behavioral needs and strengths of students in their classrooms.

Edwards (2006) used The Child Behavior Checklist-Teacher Report Form (TRF) to measure, on a 3-point scale, how the students internalized or externalized stressful situations as a means of coping. The 113 question instrument was answered by the

teachers for all of the students in both the test and comparison groups. For a 2 month period of time, office and guidance referral data were also collected for each of the student groups. The data were analyzed using “one-way multivariate analyses of variance (MANOVA) and univariate analyses of variance (ANOVA) as well as a chi-square test” (p. 569).

The results of this study suggested that teachers perceived significantly more overall behavior and emotional problems in African American children raised by grandparents compared to those raised by parents. They were also perceived as having more intense problems than the comparison group or the normative population of the TRF. The referral data showed that teachers did not refer the children raised by grandparents at a more significant rate even though they perceived them to have a greater number of psychological problems (Edwards, 2006). Thus, studies by Bramlett and Blumberg (2007), Smith and Palmieri (2007) and Edwards (2006) have indicated that grandchildren being raised by their grandparents have more physical and emotional health issues, as well as more problems functioning at school.

### **How Young Adult Readers Use Fiction**

The connection has been made between vocabulary development and student word exposure. When students spend time reading they learn more words, become more fluent, and increase their comprehension. Students are expected to do an increasing amount of reading for information as they get older in schools, but there have been few studies done to explore the leisure reading habits of adolescents. Nippold, Duthie, and Larsen (2005) examined the leisure reading preferences of older children and young adolescents.

On a survey given to 100 sixth graders and 100 ninth graders, split evenly between males and females, Nippold, et al. (2005) asked three questions: “how do you spend your free time, please estimate how much time you spend each day, on average, reading for pleasure outside of the school day and what kinds of materials do you like to read for pleasure?” (p. 102). The participants were students from five sixth grade, and five ninth grade English classes. They attended public schools in western Oregon. They represented a range of ability levels, but none were reported to be receiving special education services. Students were given the survey during their English class, and those choosing not to participate stayed in the classroom and read. The directions and questions on the survey were read aloud with time being given between the questions for students to respond.

The data showed that for Question 1, reading was a moderately popular activity with 51% of the students choosing it. The most popular activity was listening to music/going to concerts, with 78% of the students choosing it. The data was analyzed statistically for grade and gender preference comparisons. Data for Question 2 indicated that boys (22%) spent an average of 5-10 minutes reading for pleasure and more boys (17%) than girls (4%) indicated they spent no time reading for pleasure. Girls (25%) responded that, on average, 20-30 minutes was spent on reading for pleasure. Data for Question 3 indicated that “for all students combined, the most popular reading materials were magazines, novels, and comics” (Nippold et al., 2005, p. 98). The discussion following these results centered on ideas for schools on encouraging students to increase their leisure time reading. Another study examined the reading habits of young adults.

Hughes-Hassell and Rodge (2007) stated that few studies of “leisure reading habits and attitudes have included low-income minority urban youth” (p. 23). There is a strong relationship between leisure reading and school achievement. These researchers examined the reading habits and attitudes of urban adolescents. They asked questions to investigate five different aspects of urban adolescent leisure reading: do urban adolescents read in their leisure time; if they read, what, when and why do they read; if they don’t read, why not; what topics and types of characters or people do they like to read about; where do they get their reading materials; and who encourages them to read.

A 20-item questionnaire was given to 715 students ranging in ages from 10-15 years; 47% male and 53% female. Sixteen questions were multiple-choice and four were open-ended. The open-ended questions asked students about their favorite elementary book, favorite middle school book, best book they’ve ever read, and any other information the student wanted to share about reading. Data were analyzed from 584 students (Hughes-Hassell & Rodge, 2007).

The data indicated that 72% of the students engaged in reading as a leisure activity, 6% do not read, and 22% only read for school. More females (78%) than males (64%) indicated they read for pleasure. Hughes-Hassell and Rodge (2007) found that both males (68%) and females (76%) preferred magazines. When asked if they enjoyed reading, 42% of females answered yes, compared to 31% of the boys. Fifty-eight percent of the total students cited “for fun” (p. 25) as the main reason they read, and 48% of the total indicated that they read to learn something/it’s educational. “Adolescents who read to gain knowledge were interested in satisfying their curiosity about special topics, improving their grades in school, or learning how to cope with obstacles in life” (p. 24).

Others used reading as therapy. One student wrote, “I like reading books about kids my age that have been abandoned and abused. Like I was. It helps me find new ways to deal and confront it” (pp. 24-25). Seventy-one percent of students indicated that the school library was the primary source for their reading materials. Parents (70%) and teachers (63%) were selected as their primary sources of reading encouragement. Discussion of these data and their implications for urban schools included expanding our definition of reading so that magazines would be more readily available to students and incorporated into their reading curriculum.

The literature reviewed here has indicated that grandchildren living with a grandparent caregiver might be more likely to have a number of physical and emotional health problems: ADD or ADHD, asthma-related health issues, difficulties concentrating, difficulties getting along with others, behavior problems, depression, anxiety. Based upon this literature review, this researcher believes that in young adult fiction portraying the grandchild being raised by a grandparent, some of these health issues should be evident.

In a review of the literature Landry-Meyer and Newman (2004) and Erbert and Aleman (2008) found there were mental & emotional as well as lifestyle & social challenges faced by grandparents who were caregivers of their grandchildren. These grandparents had internal role conflict as well as stress from a change in their life expectations. Minkler and Fuller-Thompson (1999) and Gibbons and Jones (2003) found that grandparents caring for their grandchildren faced physical challenges. Smith and Palmieri (2007), Bramlett and Blumberg (2007), and Edwards (2006) all found that these grandchildren had a higher incidence of mental & emotional as well as physical health

challenges. They also had more social problems like getting along with others. Nippold, et al. (2005) found young adult readers consider reading to be at least a moderately popular leisure time activity and Hughes-Hassell and Rodge (2007) found that some of that reading is done to help the reader find out how characters cope with life situations similar to theirs.

## **CHAPTER 3**

### **METHODOLOGY**

The relationship between many grandparents and their grandchildren has changed into a grandparent as caregiver relationship. Changes often bring challenges for the grandparent as well as the grandchild. Many grandparents suffer from health problems, difficult social issues, or emotional challenges that accompany a change in their expectations of later life (Erbert & Aleman, 2008; Landry-Meyer & Newman, 2004). For the grandchild the challenges may mean difficulty concentrating and getting along in school (Edwards, 2006) or physical health problems (Bramlett & Blumberg, 2007). Many teens look to young adult fiction for models of how characters have coped with life challenges (Hughes-Hassell & Rodge, 2007). The hypotheses being tested in this study are:

1. Less than 20% of the books, selected for analysis, containing a grandparent as a significant character will show a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role.
2. The majority (51%) of books, selected for analysis, containing a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role will show physical health challenges consistent with the literature review.
3. The majority (51%) of books, selected for analysis, containing a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role will show mental & emotional health challenges consistent with the literature review.



4. The majority (51%) of books containing a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role will show lifestyle & social challenges consistent with the literature review.

### **Research Methodology**

This study used a content analysis method to examine the extent to which grandparents are represented in caregiver roles of grandchildren in current young adult fiction. Content analysis method is defined as being an “objective, systematic, and quantitative method of describing content” (Bekkedal, 1973, p. 110). This method looks for the presence of predetermined characteristics in a body of literature that has been systematically selected using a set of criteria. Content analysis was chosen for this study because this method allowed the researcher to analyze works of young adult fiction in an objective, systematic way, looking for evidence of grandparents in a caregiver role and the affects this relationship has on both the grandparent and grandchild (Berthelsen, 2006).

### **Selection of Book Population**

The focus of this study was the presence of grandparents caring for grandchildren in a primary caregiver role and the portrayal of challenges faced by the grandparents and grandchildren in current young adult fiction. The books for this study came from H.W. Wilson’s *Junior High & Middle School* and *Senior High Core Collection*. Only those books published from 2003-2009 were eligible for this study because it focused on current young adult literature. The list of 88 books found in the initial search is Appendix A. The list of books selected for analysis is Appendix B.

### **Data Gathering Instrument**

The data gathering instrument used in this study was modeled after one used by Berthelsen (2006). The format consisted of questions to be answered as the books were read. The questions were consistent with the findings from the literature review about challenges grandparents and grandchildren face when the grandparent is the primary caregiver. The questions fell into one of three general categories of challenges: physical health, mental & emotional health, and lifestyle & social. Six of the questions related to the physical health and challenges of the grandparent and grandchild. Eighteen of the questions asked about the mental and emotional health of the grandparent and grandchild, and twelve of the questions pertained to lifestyle and social issues. The questions were consistent with findings in the literature review. The content analysis form appears in Appendix C.

### **Procedures**

After completing a search for current YA books with grandparents in H.W. Wilson's *Junior High & Middle School* and *Senior High Core Collection*, the 88 books found through the searching process were skimmed in order to ascertain whether or not they fit the criteria for analysis. In order to be included in this study the books needed to have a young adult between the ages of 10 and 18 as a main character and have a grandparent as a primary caregiver to that grandchild. The book was also required to have a contemporary setting in the United States. Those books not fitting the criteria were eliminated from the study. This data was used to support or reject the first hypothesis.

The use of the data collection instrument for the remaining books ensured that information was collected objectively. Each book was read carefully. While reading, the researcher recorded descriptors of the book and demographic information about the grandparent or grandparents in the novel as well as the young adult grandchild or grandchildren. The data collection instrument contained 36 questions that were answered with a yes or no. Following this response, the researcher recorded evidence found in the book to support the response. The answers to the yes and no questions were coded according to the type of challenge the grandchild or grandparent faced. These numbers were then used to support or reject the second, third, and fourth hypotheses. Of the six questions that pertain to the second hypothesis, four or more were required to have a majority of 51% or more that show as consistent with the literature review (Yes's) in order for the hypothesis to be accepted. Of the 18 questions that pertain to the third hypothesis, 10 or more were required to have a majority of 51% or more that show as consistent with the literature review (Yes's) in order for the hypothesis to be accepted. Of the 12 questions that pertain to the fourth hypothesis, 7 or more were required to have a majority of 51% or more that show as consistent with the literature review (Yes's) in order for the hypothesis to be accepted.

## CHAPTER 4

### DATA ANALYSIS

This qualitative study was done to examine the extent to which grandparents are portrayed in primary caregiver roles of grandchildren in current young adult fiction. A growing number of young adults find themselves being cared for by their grandparents, in the absence of their parents. It was the intent of this researcher to explore that relationship and how young adult readers could see their life circumstances being portrayed in current young adult fiction.

#### Hypothesis 1

Hypothesis one stated that less than 20% of the books containing a grandparent as a significant character will show a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role. This researcher found 88 books when searching in H.W. Wilson's Junior High & Middle School and Senior High *Core Collection* for books published between 2003-2009 containing grandparents. Of these 88 books, 10 books, or about 12 %, met the criteria for analysis. It is based on this data that hypothesis one is accepted.

Seventy-eight books that showed up in the initial search for books containing grandparents were not included in the study. In 18 of the books, the grandparent or grandparents were not living. Thirty-six of the books were set outside the United States. Thirteen of the books were not set in a contemporary time period. Thirty of the books did not show the grandparent as the primary caregiver. In *Schooled*, the grandmother has been the primary caregiver of the young adult grandson up to the point at which the book begins. The book is about the grandson's life while he is living with a social worker

while the grandmother is recovering from an accident. This book was not chosen for analysis because the story did not take place while the grandmother was the primary caregiver.

In *The Maze of Bones*, the young adult grandchildren have a close relationship with their grandmother and have spent a considerable amount of time with her since their parents died in a house fire. This book was not chosen for analysis because in the beginning pages of this book, the grandmother dies. She continues to be a character in the book but only in their memories and in reference to the clues they are finding.

Table 1

*Grandparent Represented*

Relationship	Number of books
Grandmother only	3 (30%)
Great-Grandmother only	1 (10%)
Grandfather only	1 (10%)
Grandmother and Grandfather together as a parenting unit	4 (40%)
Grandmother as sole caregiver in one part of the book and Grandfather as sole caregiver in the rest of the book	1 (10%)
Total	10 (100%)

Table 2

*Grandchild Represented*

Relationship	Number of books
Granddaughter	6 (60%)
Grandson	3 (30%)
Grandson and granddaughter (siblings)	1 (10%)
Total	10 (100%)

Tables 1 and 2 show the relationships of the people written about in the ten books analyzed. In *Paint the Wind*, Maya lived with her paternal grandmother at the beginning of the book, but when the grandmother suffered a stroke and died, Maya went to live with her maternal grandfather. While the time with the grandfather represented a larger period of time in this book, data could be collected from the time Maya spent with each of these grandparents. Although the two grandparents were separate characters, they were treated as one when the book was analyzed because they were in the same book. When the yes and no answers were tallied for each question in the data collection tool that asked about the grandparent, a tally for that question could have come from either grandparent. In *Journey*, a brother and sister lived with the grandparents. Both were young adults when the parents left, and the grandparents continued on caring for them as they had been, but without the parents being present. Although the two grandchildren were separate characters they were treated as one when the book was analyzed because they were in the same book. When the yes and no answers were tallied for each question in the data collection tool that asked about the grandchild, a tally for that question could have come from either grandchild. The caregiver grandparent in *Beauty Shop for Hire* was the great-grandmother. Abby arrived to live with her great-grandmother when her mother was unable to care for her due to emotional problems following a divorce. The grandmother was not present because she had committed suicide at age 36.

Table 3

*Ages of Grandchildren*

Age	Number of Grandchildren
11	4
12	1
13	1
14	2
15	0
16	0
17	2
Age unknown	1
Total	11

Table 3 describes the ages of the grandchildren in the analyzed books. The grandchildren range in age from 11 to 17, with eight of the eleven characters being between 11-14 years. Although there are 10 books analyzed, in *Journey* there are two young adult characters. In that book, the age of Journey is given as 11 years. Cat, Journey's sister, is described as being older, but we are not told how many years older she is.

Table 4

*Length of Time with Grandparent as Primary Caregiver*

Length of time in years	Number of Grandchildren
Less than one year	5
1-2 years	1
3-4 years	1
More than 4 years	4

Table 4 describes the length of time for this caregiver relationship which ranged from less than one year to more than four years. One of the criteria for analysis was that the grandparent was the primary caregiver. This relationship meant the grandparents

were responsible for the day-to-day care of the grandchild, even if the parents were alive and in contact with their child. Books were not included if the grandchild or grandchildren were just there for a visit and knew when the visit would end. In *All the Lovely Bad Ones: A Ghost Story* the brother and sister were visiting their grandmother just for the summer. They didn't have contact with their parents, but this book wasn't chosen for analysis because they knew that this was just a visit.

Several books included for analysis showed the grandparent being the caregiver for only a short period of time. In *Ethan, Suspended*, Ethan was sent to live with his grandparents after being suspended from his school for bullying. He had phone contact with both of his parents during his stay with his grandparents. This book was chosen for analysis because of the open-ended nature of his stay. He was enrolled in the neighborhood school and became involved in activities in his new school as if he would be there for a long time. As it turned out, he only stayed for the first semester. Skye McPhee, in *It's Only Temporary*, didn't want to set down roots and get emotionally connected to anyone when she was sent to live with her grandmother after her brother suffered a brain injury and needed to work through rehabilitation. Although the length of the stay was never discussed with her, she convinced herself that her circumstances were only temporary and tried to make herself as invisible as possible at her new school. Even at the end of the book, we are not sure if she will be continuing her stay with her grandmother, or if she will be going back to live with her family.



Table 5

*Mother's Life Circumstances Leading to Grandparent as Primary Caregiver*

The grandchild is with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:	Number of books
Death	2 (20%)
Drug abuse	1 (10%)
Divorce	2 (20%)
Disease (depression)	1 (10%)
Other:	4 (40%)
Total	10 (100%)

Table 6

*Father's Life Circumstances Leading to Grandparent as Primary Caregiver*

The grandchild is with the grandparent due to the biological father's:	Number of books
Death	2 (20%)
Drug abuse	1 (10%)
Divorce	2 (20%)
Disease (alcoholism)	1 (10%)
Other	4 (40%)
Total	10 (100%)

Tables 5 and 6 show the circumstances in the lives of the mother and father, respectively, that lead to the grandparents being primary caregivers in the 10 books analyzed. In some books the reason was the same for both the mother and the father. This was not true in every book. The death of the parents, drug abuse, and disease were

shown as reasons for this family structure. In *Eleven*, Sam lived with his grandfather because his mother died from a heart problem and his dad was in the army and died. Sam was only three when he went to live with his grandfather. He doesn't have issues with being there until he begins to have memories that he doesn't understand. When this happens, Sam begins to question whether Mack is really his grandfather and if he truly belongs there.

Some of the reasons dealt with circumstances involving choices the parents had made. In *Journey*, Cat and Journey are left to wonder why being with them wasn't enough to keep their mother from leaving. After their father left, the mother seemed to be searching for more in life than just being a mom. Several times during the story she sent them money in an envelope without a return address. The one time she calls, Journey tells her they got a cat who is a very good mother and who will stay with him forever.

Some other reasons shown for needing a change in the family structure were discipline, as in *Ethan, Suspended*; circumstances with a sibling, as in *It's Only Temporary*; and parental immaturity as in *Guyaholic: A story of finding, flirting, forgetting...and the boy who changes everything*. In *Guyaholic*, Vivienne Vail Valentine, or V, was dropped off at her grandparents' by her mother 18 months ago. Her mother has since then "broken promises to visit three different times, twice for opening nights of plays and once for my birthday" (Mackler, 2007, p. 12). V's mother was very young when V was born and her life has been one long string of relationships and moving to new cities. V has never met her father. Her mother rarely talks about him, "and when she does, she just calls him the Sperm Donor" (p. 71).

Some of the parents made career choices that took them away from their children as in *Heart of a Shepherd*. Ignatius, or Brother as he is known to his four older brothers, is left to help his grandparents on the ranch when they all go away to school. The mother in the family left six years ago to sell her artwork in New York and has since moved to Rome. The circumstance leading to the grandparents becoming the primary caregivers comes when the father is deployed to Iraq.

### **Hypothesis 2**

Hypothesis two stated that the majority (51%) of books, selected for analysis, containing a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role will show physical health challenges consistent with the literature review. Table 7 shows the findings of the researcher pertaining to the physical health of the grandparents and young adult grandchildren. To be consistent with the literature review, four or more of the six questions need to have a majority of Yes responses. As shown in Table 7, zero of the six questions have a majority of Yes responses. It is based on this data that hypothesis two is rejected.

Table 7

*Pertaining to Physical Health*

	Yes	No
Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?	0 (0%)	10 (100%)
Does the grandparent have age-related health issues?	4 (40%)	6 (60%)
Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma-related illness?	0 (0%)	10 (100%)
Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating?	0 (0%)	10 (100%)
Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences?	1 (10%)	9 (90%)
Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?	0 (0%)	10 (100%)

In 4 (40%) of the books there was evidence of the grandparents having age-related health issues. In *Paint the Wind*, the grandmother walks with a cane. There is no evidence that leads this researcher to believe this interferes with her ability to care for Maya. The fact that she doesn't take Maya places seems to have more to do with her grief than mobility. Additional evidence of an age-related health issue is the grandmother suffering a stroke and dying. The grandfather in *Heart of a Shepherd* works very hard on the ranch. There are references made, as the story progresses, by Brother's three older brothers about the increasing frailty they notice in the grandparents. At the end of the story, after fighting a wildfire, the grandfather suffers a heart attack and dies. Ethan's grandfather, in *Ethan Suspended*, will not drive at night due to cataracts. Minkler and Fuller-Thompson (1999) found that the custodial grandparents reported a higher rate of

limitations as well as a significantly lower satisfaction with their health than non-custodial grandparents.

### **Hypothesis 3**

Hypothesis three stated that the majority (51%) of books, selected for analysis, containing a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role will show mental and emotional health challenges consistent with the literature review. Table 8 shows the findings of the researcher pertaining to the mental and emotional health of the grandparents and young adult grandchildren. To be consistent with the literature review, five or more of the eight questions need to have a majority of Yes responses. As shown in Table 8, three of the eight questions have a majority of Yes responses. It is based on this data that hypothesis three is rejected.

Table 8

*Pertaining to Mental and Emotional Health*

	Yes	No
Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety?	1 (10%)	9 (90%)
Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety?	9 (90%)	1 (10%)
Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?	5 (50%)	5 (50%)
Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?	3 (30%)	7 (70%)
Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents?	5 (50%)	5 (50%)
Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent)	5 (50%)	5 (50%)
Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences?	10 (100%)	0 (0%)
Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?	10 (100%)	0 (0%)

In 10 (100%) of the books there was evidence of other mental and emotional issues facing the grandparent and facing the grandchild. *In Beauty Shop for Rent...fully equipped, inquire within*, Abby has a great deal of stress in her life due to her strong desire not to turn out like her mom and a feeling of responsibility for her mom's mental health. As a result of this she works as many hours at the beauty shop as she can and she has a plan to be a millionaire before the age of 35. In addition to this, Abby feels abandoned by her dad after misunderstanding her grandmother's side of the conversation, in which her dad was asking for joint custody but Abby thought he didn't want anything

to do with her. Ruby's grandmother in *Ruby's Imagine*, carried a great deal of guilt about telling Ruby's daddy that since he took her own daughter away, he owed her one of his. Ruby grew up thinking that her parents had died in a car accident and always wondered why her grandmother didn't like her very much.

In *Guyaholic: A story of finding, flirting, forgetting...and the boy who changes everything*, V's grandparents suggest she see a therapist about the feelings she has about Aimee, her mother. They go so far as to schedule the appointment for her. When she tells her mom about this, V learns that her grandparents had wanted to send Aimee to a therapist also. It was at that time Aimee took off for Colorado and got pregnant with V. In 9 (90%) of the books analyzed, therapy for the young adult is not even mentioned. Edwards (2006) found through referral data that children raised by grandparents were not referred at a more significant rate even though they were perceived by teachers to have a greater number of psychological problems.

The stress grandparents feel due to conflict with the biological parents is present in 5 (50%) of the books analyzed. In *Paint the Wind*, the conflict Maya's grandmother had with her daughter-in-law was so strong that even years after the death of Maya's parents, the conflict and grief keep her from enjoying life and enjoying her granddaughter.

#### **Hypothesis 4**

Hypothesis four stated that the majority (51%) of the books, selected for analysis, containing a grandchild-grandparent relationship with the grandparent in a primary caregiver role will show lifestyle and social challenges consistent with the literature review. Table 9 shows the findings of the researcher pertaining to the lifestyle and social

challenges of the grandparents and young adult grandchildren. To be consistent with the literature review, seven or more of the twelve questions need to have a majority of Yes responses. As shown in Table 9, six of the twelve questions have majority of Yes responses. It is based on this data that hypothesis four is rejected.

Table 9

*Pertaining to Lifestyle and Social Challenges*

	Yes	No
Does the young adult have problems getting along with others?	4 (40%)	6 (60%)
Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters?	0 (0%)	10 (100%)
Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship?	8 (80%)	2 (20%)
Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild?	0 (0%)	10 (100%)
Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers?	10 (100%)	0 (0%)
Does the grandparent feel isolated from same-age peers?	2 (20%)	8 (80%)
Does the grandparent work?	8 (80%)	2 (20%)
Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers?	10 (100%)	0 (0%)
Does the young adult feel isolated from same-age peers?	7 (70%)	3 (30%)
Does the young adult work?	4 (40%)	6 (60%)
Are there other lifestyle & social issues the grandparent experiences?	3 (30%)	7 (70%)
Are there other lifestyle & social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?	7 (70%)	3 (30%)



In the books analyzed, 10 (100%) of both the grandparents and the grandchildren had interactions with same-age peers. In 8 (80%) of the books the grandparent works. In *Ethan, Suspended*, Ethan meets the neighbor boys and joins the jazz band at his new school. His grandfather meets regularly with other retired pharmacists. Despite the high percentage of interactions, 64% of the young adults feel isolated from their same-age peers. In *Kendra*, Kendra feels like her grandmother is too strict about what Kendra wears, the activities she can participate in, and with whom she can spend time. In *Guyaholic: A story of finding, flirting, forgetting...and the boy who changes everything*, V distanced herself from the relationship or friendship whenever she feels that someone was getting too close.

The grandparents had an informal custodial relationship in 8 (80%) of the books analyzed. The non-legal nature of this relationship was not the cause of any problems for the grandparent or the grandchild. In *Paint the Wind*, Maya's grandmother wasn't in compliance with the custodial arrangements spelled out by Maya's parents. The summers were meant to be spent with the maternal grandfather but Maya knew nothing about this until her paternal grandmother died. A number of other lifestyle and social issues were faced by both the grandparent and the grandchild. These challenges range from the generation gap in *Ethan, Suspended* where there wasn't even a computer in the house, to Maya being unequipped to handle her cousin's teasing because her grandmother kept her so isolated in *Paint the Wind*. Smith and Palmieri (2007) concluded that custodial grandchildren were at a greater risk for emotional and behavioral problems than children in other caregiver situations.

The books examined in this study represented a variety of grandchild-grandparent relationships. In each situation, the grandparent or grandparents were the primary caregiver for the young adult grandchild or grandchildren. These family structures were necessary for a number of different reasons, which included death, divorce, disease, and discipline.

Both the grandchildren and the grandparents in the books analyzed faced many challenges. Physical challenges were faced by aging grandparents. Emotional and mental issues were as a result of choices the parents had made and in some cases choices the parents continued to make. Social and lifestyle challenges became evident as the characters interacted with others as they dealt with these new life circumstances.

## CHAPTER 5

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS

The number of children and young adults being raised primarily by their grandparents continues to increase (Landry-Meyer & Newman, 2004). If either the grandchild or grandparent is suddenly thrust into a different family structure it can create challenges. Some young adults turn to the characters in literature as models for how to cope with life challenges (Hughes-Hassell & Rodge, 2007). It was the purpose of this quantitative study to explore physical health, mental and emotional health, and lifestyle and social challenges faced by grandparents and grandchildren when the grandparents are the primary caregivers, and how those challenges are portrayed in current young adult literature. Eighty-eight books were identified and from them ten were carefully examined using a data collection tool to determine the relationship and whether or not these issues were addressed. The findings of this study showed less than 20% of the books identified showed a grandparent as the primary caregiver of a young adult and the majority of the books did not portray the physical, mental and emotional, and social and lifestyle issues in a way that was consistent with the literature review.

#### Summary

The first hypothesis addressed the number of books that could be found in current young adult fiction in which grandchildren being cared for by their grandparents could find their life circumstances reflected. This hypothesis stated that less than 20% of the books will show a grandparent as the primary caregiver. This researcher found that of the 88 books identified through a search of current young adult literature in H.W. Wilson's Junior High & Middle School and Senior High *Core Collection* only 10, or 12%, showed

the grandparent or grandparents in the role of primary caregiver; thus, hypothesis 1 was accepted.

Hypothesis two addressed the physical challenges facing grandparents and grandchildren in a relationship where the grandparents are the primary caregivers. The books analyzed did not show characters having the age-related, mobility, or overall physical health concerns to be consistent with the literature review. Thus, hypothesis 2 was rejected.

Hypothesis three addressed the mental and emotional health issues facing grandparents and grandchildren in a relationship where the grandparents are the primary caregivers. The books analyzed did not show characters having the frequency of mental and emotional health issues to be consistent with the literature review. Thus, hypothesis 3 was rejected.

Hypothesis four addressed the lifestyle and social issues facing grandparents and grandchildren in a relationship where the grandparents are the primary caregivers. The majority of the books portrayed the young adult as having interactions with same-age peers and getting along with others. The books analyzed did not show characters dealing with the frequency of lifestyle and social issues consistent with the literature review. Thus, hypothesis 4 was rejected.

### **Conclusions**

This researcher concluded that given the large number of children and young adults being raised primarily by their grandparents, characters living in this family structure are underrepresented in current young adult literature. More than 6 million children and young adults, a number that has increased significantly over the last 20 years

(Landry-Meyer & Newman, 2004), find themselves living within this family structure. They could benefit from seeing characters dealing with the challenges that they are facing. The physical, emotional, and lifestyle challenges faced by the characters in the works of young adult literature analyzed by this researcher were found to be inconsistent with the challenges found in the literature studies. As young adults turn to literature to see how characters who are facing similar life circumstances cope (Hughes-Hassell and Rodge, 2007), it is important that young adults being raised by their grandparents are provided opportunities to see a variety of situations, problems, and resolutions in current young adult literature.

### **Recommendations for Future Studies**

There are a number of avenues of further study when looking at the portrayal of the grandparent in a primary caregiver role. In this study, the researcher looked only at this relationship in young adult literature. Future studies could explore this relationship in children's literature. Television and film also have a great influence on young adults. The portrayal of this family structure could be examined in those forms of media. The availability and relevance of works of fiction for grandparents who suddenly find they are raising their grandchildren would also be of interest. Even within the body of literature examined in this study, the representation of families by different ethnic or racial groups was not examined. Another area not examined was the economic impact to the families.

Young adults look to literature to see characters dealing with circumstances similar to their own, but there are many tools available to them to connect with other young adults living through these circumstances. It would be interesting to see if young

adults are using current technologies such as blogs, chat rooms, and Facebook groups to connect with others who are living in a similar family structure.

## REFERENCES

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## APPENDIX A

## INITIAL LIST OF BOOKS

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## APPENDIX B

## BOOKS SELECTED FOR ANALYSIS

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- Bowers, L. (2007). *Beauty shop for rent:--fully equipped, inquire within* (1<sup>st</sup> ed.). New York: Harcourt.
- Ehrenberg, P. (2007). *Ethan, suspended*. Grand Rapids, MN: Eerdmans Books for Young Readers.
- Giff, P. R. (2008). *Eleven*. New York: Wendy Lamb Books.
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- MacLachlan, P. (2007). *Two novels: Baby; Journey*. New York: Delacorte Press.
- Parry, R. (2009). *Heart of a shepherd*. New York: Random House Children's Books.
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## APPENDIX C

### CONTENT ANALYSIS FORM

Title:

Author:

Copyright/Publisher:

Summary:

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character:

Description of young adult (grandchild) character:

Name/age of grandmother character:

Description of grandmother character:

Name/age of grandfather character:

Description of grandfather character:

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year?      Yes No

1-2 years?              Yes No

3-4 years?              Yes No

More than 4 years?    Yes No      How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence:

Are there siblings there also? Yes No

Evidence:

***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

Yes No

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? Yes No

Evidence:

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? Yes No

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? Yes No

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes No

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

Yes No

Evidence:

***Questions that pertain to Mental & Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)***

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death Yes No

2. drug abuse Yes No

3. divorce Yes No

4. disease Yes No

5. imprisonment Yes No

other (explain):

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

6. death Yes No

7. drug abuse Yes No

8. divorce Yes No

9. disease Yes No

10. imprisonment Yes No

other (explain):

11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? Yes No

Evidence:

12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? Yes No

Evidence:

13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?

Yes No

Evidence:

14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?

Yes No

Evidence:



15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents?

Yes No

Evidence:

16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) Yes No

Evidence:

17. Are there other mental & emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes

No

Evidence:

18. Are there other mental & emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? Yes No

Evidence:

***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle & Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? Yes No

Evidence:

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? Yes No

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent:

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? Yes No

Evidence:

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? Yes No

Evidence:

5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? Yes No

Evidence:

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same-age peers? Yes No

Evidence:

7. Does the grandparent work? Yes No

Evidence:

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? Yes No

Evidence:

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same-age peers? Yes No

Evidence:

10. Does the young adult work? Yes No

Evidence:

11. Are there other lifestyle & social issues the grandparent experiences? Yes No

Evidence:

12. Are there other lifestyle & social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

Yes No

Evidence:

## APPENDIX D

## NOTES ON ANALYZED BOOKS

Title: *Ruby's Imagine*

Author: *Kim Antieau*

Copyright/Publisher: 2008/Houghton Mifflin

Summary: *Ruby is a young woman who has a way of looking at life that honors the plants and animals around her. When a butterfly tells her of the 'big spin' that is coming towards their home in New Orleans, Ruby hesitates to tell her grandmother, Mammaloose. After Hurricane Katrina hits, Ruby and many others help each other out when outside help doesn't come. Ruby learns that memories that she has been having about her family are actually real. The family, whom she believed to be dead, are very much alive and her father has been working side by side with her at the Café Brouhaha.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Ruby/age 17*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Ruby is very imaginative and intuitive. She is full of gratitude to the things in nature that provide her food and make her surroundings pleasurable. She has memories of having two sisters and living in the swamp. Ruby wants to study swamps and learn how to bring them back. Her best friend says that when she gets angry her words go all 'normal like'. She usually talks in a very picturesque way.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *Mammaloose (maternal grandmother)/age not given*

Description of grandmother character: *Mammaloose is a sad woman who is full of fears. She is especially fearful that Ruby will be exposed to, and begin using drugs. She treats Ruby like she is still five years old and is not tolerant of Ruby's words when she talks about the flowers and animals as if they were her friends. She was physically abusive when Ruby was younger and smaller. Mammaloose has many regrets about how she raised her own daughter and tried to do better by Ruby. She has secrets that come out in the end.*

Name/age of grandfather character: *none*

Description of grandfather character: *none*

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year?      Yes *No*

1-2 years?              Yes *No*

3-4 years?              Yes *No*

More than 4 years?    Yes *No*              How many? *12*

Evidence: *Ruby has lived with Mammaloose since the age of 5 when her parents died in a car crash (this is what Ruby was told).*

Are there siblings there also? Yes *No*

Evidence:

***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild? Yes *No*

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? Yes *No*

Evidence:

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? Yes *No*

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? Yes *No*

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes *No*

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

### ***Questions that pertain to Mental and Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)***

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death Yes *No*

2. drug abuse *Yes* No *This was the actually reason, but Ruby was told it was due to death.*

3. divorce Yes *No*

4. disease Yes *No*

5. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain):

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

6. death Yes *No*

7. drug abuse *Yes* No *This was the actually reason, but Ruby was told it was due to death.*

8. divorce Yes *No*

9. disease Yes *No*

10. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain):

11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? Yes *No*

Evidence:

12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? *Yes* No

Evidence: *She isn't asked how she feels about living with Mamaloose, nor is it suggested that she talk with someone about it.*

13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?

Yes *No*

Evidence: *Mother is not present, is presumed dead by Ruby.*

14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?

Yes *No*

Evidence: *Father is not present, is presumed dead by Ruby.*

15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Mammaloose feels guilty about telling Ruby's daddy he owed her one of his daughters because he had taken away Mammaloose's daughter. She still feels anger about her daughter's drug use, which drives one of her main fears*

16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) **Yes No**

Evidence:

17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Mammaloose carries a lot of guilt about not doing a better job raising Ruby. She realized how alone Ruby must have felt all those years and that Ruby shouldn't have been kept from her family. She has many fears that she has passed on to Ruby.*

18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Ruby has many unanswered questions about her family and the memories she has of them. Her grandmother tells her those are all in her imagination. She wonders why Mammaloose doesn't like her and doesn't approve of JayEl. She has stress about all of the fears Mammaloose has and the way Mammaloose treats her, like threatening to put her out on the street. She has 'mad feels' about Mammaloose when she finally learns that her family is alive.*

### ***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle and Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? **Yes No**

Evidence:

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? **Yes No**

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *Ruby calls her Mammaloose. There is no information about where this name came from.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? **Yes No**

Evidence: *There is no evidence to indicate a legal custodial relationship*

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? **Yes No**

Evidence:

5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Mammaloose works outside the home and there is a gentleman living with them by the name of Uncle Gilbert (not really Ruby's uncle).*

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence:

7. Does the grandparent work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Mammaloose works at a hotel. They consider going there when their neighbors begin preparing for the approaching hurricane.*

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Ruby has her best friend JayEl whose father works for a nearby store. JayEl likes the way she 'paints pictures with her words'. Ruby doesn't believe JayEl could be involved when some young men at her school are accused of breaking into the school and being involved with drugs. Ruby tries to stand up for others who are being hurt.*

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Ruby doesn't feel like school is a nice place. She has learned to put on her 'normal life', as JayEl puts it, when she is in school.*

10. Does the young adult work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *She bakes for the Café Brouhaha.*

11. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence:

12. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *Ruby has been accepted into college for the fall. She plans to go to Tulane. In the end she has sisters and her father to share her life with. They plan to try to get in touch with her mother.*

## CONTENT ANALYSIS FORM

Title: *Kendra*

Author: *Coe Booth*

Copyright/Publisher: *2008/PUSH*

Summary: *Fourteen year old Kendra Williamson feels like she isn't wanted anywhere. She lives with her grandmother, Nana, while her mother completes yet another degree. Kendra's grandmother is very overprotective. She is suspicious of any interactions Kendra has with her peers and her fourteen year old aunt, Adonna. Nana is determined to keep Kendra from making the same mistake her mother did by getting pregnant at the age of fourteen. Kendra's feelings were hurt when she heard her mother and grandmother arguing about who Kendra will live with. The friendship between Kendra and Adonna suffers because they are both interested in the same boy. Kendra's choices about this boy get her kicked out of her grandmother's apartment into the unenthusiastic care of her mother.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Kendra (Babe) Williamson/ age 14*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Kendra attends the North Bronx HS for Arts and Communication. She loves to draw and work backstage for plays. She usually follows the rules her grandmother sets before her. She is influenced by her aunt Adonna about hair, make-up, clothes, and boys. She knows the decisions she is making are wrong, but does them anyway.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *Valerie/ age 49*

Description of grandmother character: *Nana works hard and has sacrificed much of her social life so she is there for Kendra. Her own daughter got pregnant at the age of 14 and Nana is determined to keep that from happening to Kendra. She became even more overprotective when Kendra turned 14. She reached her breaking point and made*

*Kendra move in with her mother when it becomes obvious Kendra is headed down the same path.*

Name/age of grandfather character: *There was no grandfather figure in this story.*

Description of grandfather character:

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year? Yes *No*

1-2 years? Yes *No*

3-4 years? Yes *No*

More than 4 years? *Yes* No How many? 10

Evidence: *In addition to living with her grandmother since she was small, Kendra also found an early photo of herself in which she saw that her cradle was in the corner of her grandmother's room. In the photo Kendra's fourteen year old mother sat nearby her looking distant and disinterested.*

Are there siblings there also? Yes *No*

Evidence:

### ***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? Yes *No*

Evidence:

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? Yes *No*

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? Yes *No*

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes *No*

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

### ***Questions that pertain to Mental and Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)***

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death Yes *No*

2. drug abuse Yes *No*

3. divorce *Yes* No

4. disease Yes *No*

5. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain): *Rene and Kenny were very young when they got married and the marriage didn't last very long. Rene has since been absent while she pursues multiple college degrees.*

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

- 6. death Yes *No*
- 7. drug abuse Yes *No*
- 8. divorce *Yes* No
- 9. disease Yes *No*
- 10. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain): *Rene and Kenny were very young when they got married and the marriage didn't last very long. Kenny lives with his mother and sister in the same apartment building as Kendra and Nana. Kenny sees Kendra fairly regularly but isn't able to be a father who can provide for Kendra.*

- 11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? Yes *No*

Evidence:

- 12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? *Yes* No

Evidence: *No one seems to think about how she feels about being treated like a kid and not trusted.*

- 13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence? *Yes* No

Evidence: *When Kendra visited Princeton for her mother's graduation, there were no pictures of Kendra in Rene's dorm room. Kendra was asked several times if she was Rene's sister. It was obvious Rene hadn't told anyone she had a fourteen year old daughter. There were many times Rene would say she was coming to something that Kendra was involved in, but would not show up. Kendra regularly has to defend her mom to Adonna.*

- 14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence? *Yes* No

Evidence: *Kendra is embarrassed that Kenny still has feelings for Rene and eagerly waits for news of her. When she comes to visit Kendra and her mother, Kenny looks for opportunities to talk with her and looks very disappointed when she doesn't have time for him. Kendra knows that he brings money to Nana to help support Kendra, but she has seen him begging for that money from his own mother.*

- 15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents? *Yes* No

Evidence: *Nana fights with Rene about who Kendra should live with.*

- 16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) *Yes* No

Evidence: *When Nana finds out what Kendra has been up to, she asks "What did I do wrong this time?"*

- 17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? *Yes* No

Evidence: *Nana feels guilty about not doing a better job with Kendra.*



18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? *Yes No*

Evidence: *Kendra believes her grandmother doesn't see Kendra for who she really is, but who grandmother thinks she will become. Kendra confronts Rene with the question of whether she would have done the same thing again, if given the choice. Kendra finally realizes the seriousness of her physical relationship when she sees the newborn picture of herself with Rene. When Rene graduates she moves into a studio apartment, which makes it obvious that she isn't planning on having Kendra come live with her. Kendra and Adonna get into a physical fight at school over the boy they both like.*

***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle and Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? *Yes No*

Evidence:

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? *Yes No*

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *Kendra calls her grandmother Nana.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? *Yes No*

Evidence:

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? *Yes No*

Evidence:

5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? *Yes No*

Evidence: *She works outside the home and has phone conversations and visits from Clyde, a gentleman she works with.*

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same age peers? *Yes No*

Evidence: *On several occasions she didn't go out with Clyde, from work, because she didn't want to leave Kendra at home that late alone. There had been several men before Clyde who had simply quit calling because the Nana refused to leave Kendra alone. She also didn't want to have men in and out of the apartment with Kendra around.*

7. Does the grandparent work? *Yes No*

Evidence: *She works for Verizon.*

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? *Yes No*

Evidence: *Kendra designed the set for the play and worked on the backstage crew.*

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same age peers? *Yes No*

Evidence: *Kendra feels the presence of her grandmother's suspicions whenever she is at an activity with her classmates, especially when boys are present. Nana gave a friend from school the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree when he called to check on Kendra when she missed school due to illness.*

10. Does the young adult work? *Yes No*

Evidence:

11. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the grandparent experiences? *Yes No*

Evidence: *Nana is fearful that Kendra will get pregnant at fourteen like her daughter did. She doesn't like how her granddaughter dresses or the books she reads, and wants to keep her a little girl.*

12. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *Kendra must hide some of the books she reads and clothes she wears from Nana's disapproval.*

### CONTENT ANALYSIS FORM

Title: *Beauty Shop for Rent...Fully Equipped, Inquire Within*

Author: *Laura Bowers*

Copyright/Publisher: *2007/Harcourt*

Summary: *Abbey Garner is being raised by her great grandmother, Polly, and 3 of Polly's closest friends. Abbey is very independent. She is trying hard not to repeat the mistakes of her mother, Grace Somers. Abbey sees her mother as someone with good intentions but only empty words. It is not until Abbey sacrifices her hard-earned savings, the thing that she believes will break the cycle of Somers' women, does she realize that the thing truly connecting the four generations of women is the hatred they each felt for their own mother. It isn't until Abbey is able to confront her mother and her feelings that she can move forward with a healthy outlook on life and relationships.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Abbey Garner/ age 14*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Abbey is ambitious and independent. She has a financial plan for herself. She wants to be a millionaire before age 35. She feels responsible for her mom's mental health.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *Polly Randall (great-grandmother)/age unknown (probably early to mid 60s)*

Description of grandmother character: *Polly owns and runs a beauty shop. She is stubborn and independent, but a loyal friend. She has seen a lot of hurt in her life. She was a mother at age 16 and a grandmother at age 33.*

Name/age of grandfather character: *There isn't a grandfather figure in this story.*

Description of grandfather character:

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year? Yes **No**

1-2 years? Yes **No**

3-4 years? **Yes** No

More than 4 years? Yes **No** How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence:

Are there siblings there also? Yes **No**

Evidence:

### ***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

Yes **No**

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? Yes **No**

Evidence:

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? Yes *No*

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? Yes *No*

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes *No*

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

***Questions that pertain to Mental & Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)***

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death Yes *No*

2. drug abuse Yes *No*

3. divorce *Yes* No

4. disease *Yes* No (*Depression*)

5. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain): *Grace (Abbey's mother) attempted suicide as a result of her inability to handle her divorce. It was at this time that she left Abbey with Polly. She was very young when she had Abbey, and had difficulty handling money and her problems.*

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

6. death Yes *No*

7. drug abuse *Yes* No

8. divorce *Yes* No

9. disease *Yes* No (*Alcoholism*)

10. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain):

11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? *Yes* No

Evidence: *Abbey has anxiety about becoming like her mom. She is also very anxious about boys and dating, which also stems from her mom's experiences and influence. She is also anxious about the money she loaned her mother and the fact that she is not being kept informed about the progress toward the purchase of the house, which is why Grace wanted the money.*

12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? *Yes* No

Evidence: *Abbey has plenty of adults to talk to between Polly and Polly's friends. Counseling is never mentioned.*

13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?

**Yes** No

Evidence: *Abbey waits for her mother to call on her birthday, but the call doesn't come. When Grace does call, she listens to what Abbey has to say, but the responses all turn the conversation back to her. Abbey knows that her mother has good ideas and good intentions but there isn't any follow through. Grace says she will come for Thanksgiving, but never shows up. Each time, Abbey promises herself she will not fall for her mom's empty promises again. Grace questions Abbey to find out information about Abbey's father.*

14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?

**Yes** No

Evidence: *Abbey's father will call occasionally, attempting to establish a relationship with Abbey. Many of these calls will go unanswered because Abbey thinks her dad doesn't want her due to a conversation that Abbey heard part of when she was younger between Polly and Abbey's father. Abbey later finds out that she misunderstood the circumstances of the phone call. Grace told Abbey that her father never paid any child support.*

15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents?

**Yes** No

Evidence: *Polly is angry about the times Grace has let Abbey down (several holidays, calls on birthdays, etc). She is also angry when she finds out Abbey gave all of her money to Grace.*

16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) **Yes** No

Evidence: *Granny Po (Polly) has to make a decision about Abbey going to Camden's party when it should be a parent's decision.*

17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes** No

Evidence: *Polly has a great deal of guilt about how she handled things with her own daughter, Evelyn, who committed suicide at the age of 36. Polly is making the transition from being self-employed to selling her shop and being retired, or semi-retired.*

18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes** No

Evidence: *Abbey felt abandoned by her father for four years thinking that he rejected her, but he had really asked for joint custody. Abbey feels suspicious of boys, always hearing her mother's voice in her head about how they only want one thing, especially football players.*

***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle and Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Abbey has some friends her own age, but some relationships are very difficult for her. Abbey keeps hearing from her mother how athletes will use a girl and let her down in the end. The boy that is interested in Abbey, and who she agrees to go out with, is an athlete like her dad was. It turns out that he starts a rumor about her. This reinforces the message from her mother. There is a very nice boy whom Abbey likes, but she keeps her distance from him so she won't get hurt by him.*

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? **Yes No**

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *Abbey calls her great grandmother Granny Po.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? **Yes No**

Evidence:

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? **Yes No**

Evidence:

5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Granny Po has three very good friends who are over at the beauty shop a great deal of the time. They play bingo, watch Wheel of Fortune, and celebrate birthdays and holidays together. They are supportive of Granny Po's decision to sell the beauty shop. They are good influences on Abbey. There is a gentleman who works at Edith's Horse Rescue who has caught Granny Po's eye.*

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence:

7. Does the grandparent work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *She owns and operates Polly's Parlor. She rents it but continues to work there.*

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Abbey has interactions and friendships with other young adults from school.*

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence:

10. Does the young adult work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *She works as many hours as she can at Polly's Parlor and puts as much money as she can into savings. She also volunteers at the Jones Horse Rescue.*

11. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Granny Po was a widow when she was in her 30s. There is a gentleman next door she is interested in.*

12. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *Abbey sets herself up for failure when she agrees to go out with Cameron. Abbey begins to trust her feelings for Mitch when she realizes he is nothing like Cameron.*

## CONTENT ANALYSIS FORM

Title: *Ethan, Suspended*

Author: *Pamela Ehrenberg*

Copyright/Publisher: *2007/Eerdmans Books for Young Readers*

Summary: *When Ethan was caught bullying, the only one of the four who got caught, he is sent to live with his grandparents. While there, he learns a lot about how life is for those with other life circumstances. He gains an appreciation for where his mother has come from and why the relationship between his mom and grandparents is so strained. Through the jazz band, where he learns to play oboe, Ethan meets Sharita and helps to organize a concert for Hungry for Music. He works through his feelings about his parents impending divorce and returns how a changed person.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Ethan Oppenheimer/ age 14 (8<sup>th</sup> grade)*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Ethan is the younger of two children. His sister is away at college. Ethan is used to having plenty of money and stuff. He feels his punishment is unfair since the other boys involved got away and therefore didn't get suspended. His friends won't call him and are not allowed to associate with him. Ethan refuses to talk to his dad, who moved out and got an apartment of his own. Ethan is a clarinet player, but agrees to join jazz band at his new school and play the oboe to get out of art class. Ethan doesn't go out of his way to try to understand his grandparents' old fashioned ways when he first gets there.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *Ellen Lowenstein /age not given*

Description of grandmother character: *She expects Ethan to be home at a certain time and wanted to spank him when he took a bus trip out of the city without telling them. She cooks boring food (chicken with sauce and mushy vegetables) and packs Ethan's school lunch in a reused paper sack.*

Name/age of grandfather character: *Ira Lowenstein/ age not given*

Description of grandfather character: *He is very frugal with his money. He clips coupons and pays close attention to how much long distance phone calls cost. He lost his pharmacy in the rioting in Washington, DC in 1968. Ethan's grandparents remained in their home in the 60s even when the other white families moved to the suburbs.*

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year?      **Yes** No

1-2 years?              Yes **No**

3-4 years?              Yes **No**

More than 4 years?    Yes **No**              How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence: *When Ethan goes, he thinks it will be just for one week. Once he realizes it will be longer than that, he has no idea how long he will actually be there. His mom says he needs to stay until things settle down because of the bullying incident. Then his parents decide they need time to figure out things with their separation/divorce. He is actually there for 4 ½ months.*

Are there siblings there also? Yes **No**

Evidence:

***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? *Yes* No

Evidence: *Grandpa has cataracts which prevent him from driving at night.*

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? Yes *No*

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? Yes *No*

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes *No*

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

***Questions that pertain to Mental and Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)***

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death Yes *No*

2. drug abuse Yes *No*

3. divorce *Yes* No

4. disease Yes *No*

5. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain): *The young adult grandchild's suspension from school was the initial reason for being with the grandparents, but the parent's separation/divorce prolonged the stay.*

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

6. death Yes *No*

7. drug abuse Yes *No*

8. divorce *Yes* No

9. disease Yes *No*

10. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain): *The young adult grandchild's suspension from school was the initial reason for being with the grandparents, but the parent's separation/divorce prolonged the stay.*

11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? Yes *No*

Evidence:

12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? *Yes* No

Evidence: *Ethan isn't asked about the bullying incident by his grandparents, nor do they suggest that he talk to someone about the situation with his parents.*

13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *Ethan is frustrated by the phone calls to and from his mom. Every time he calls her, she seems to be on the way out the door to somewhere. The conversations they do have are short and impersonal.*

14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *Ethan didn't take the phone calls from his dad. He is mad that his dad moved out.*

15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents?

**Yes No**

Evidence:

16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) **Yes No**

Evidence: *Grandma had to figure out a consequence for Ethan when he skipped 7<sup>th</sup> period and took a bus and train out of the city to apologize to his friends, Felix and Daron.*

17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *They are worried about their daughter who is separated from her husband, and will be divorcing.*

18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Ethan is worried about his parents' situation. He also feels guilty about Daron getting hurt. He tried to make it right by apologizing, but then they moved. When he shares with Sharita the story of why he is there he sees how wrong his actions were when he continued bullying someone who is different.*

### **Questions that pertain to Lifestyle and Social (evidence for hypothesis four)**

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Ethan is not used to being in the minority, but that is the case at his new school. He tries to fit in, but is not sure how to do that. He works with Diego on a school project but that doesn't mean they are friends. Ethan starts hanging out with his grandparents' neighbors Felix and Daron. When Ethan and Felix follow Felix's brother, Daron, they learn that Daron is getting mixed up with the wrong crowd. Ethan finds out that Diego is going to get hurt and tries to warn him. This backfires and Daron gets hurt.*

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? **Yes No**

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *Ethan calls his grandparents Grandma and Grandpa.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? **Yes No**

Evidence:



Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Sam/ age 11*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Sam is determined, to find his birthday gifts and answers to his questions. He is fearless when it comes to climbing ladders and drainpipes. He has difficulty reading, which frustrates him very much. He goes to a special classroom in the school for help. Sam learned woodworking skills from Mack and, when asked to make a castle for a school project, decides to make the castle out of wood. Sam dreams about the number eleven and wonders what it means.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *Lydia (dead before Sam was born)*

Description of grandmother character:

Name/age of grandfather character: *Mack/ age unknown*

Description of grandfather character: *Mack is an accomplished woodworker and good teacher of that trade. Mack is a very patient man who knows how to help Sam work through his anger over his reading difficulties. Mack has a fear of water. He is a hard worker and a good friend. He has regrets over how things were handled with his daughter when she was still alive.*

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year? Yes *No*

1-2 years? Yes *No*

3-4 years? Yes *No*

More than 4 years? *Yes* No How many? *8*

Evidence: *Mack got Sam from the Children's Home at age 3.*

Are there siblings there also? Yes *No*

Evidence:

### ***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? Yes *No*

Evidence:

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? Yes *No*

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? Yes *No*

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes *No*

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

***Questions that pertain to Mental & Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)***

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death **Yes** No (a heart problem)
2. drug abuse **Yes** **No**
3. divorce **Yes** **No**
4. disease **Yes** **No**
5. imprisonment **Yes** **No**

other (explain):

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

6. death **Yes** No (in the Army)
7. drug abuse **Yes** **No**
8. divorce **Yes** **No**
9. disease **Yes** **No**
10. imprisonment **Yes** **No**

other (explain):

11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? **Yes** **No**

Evidence:

12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? **Yes** **No**

Evidence: *Sam doesn't tell his grandfather about the memories he is having or his confusion about them. He was young when his parents died, so no mention is made in this book of him seeking counseling.*

13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence? **Yes** **No**

Evidence:

14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence? **Yes** **No**

Evidence:

15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents? **Yes** **No**

Evidence:

16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) **Yes** **No**

Evidence:

17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes** **No**

Evidence: *Mack has a fear of water.*

18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes** **No**

Evidence: *Sam has a reading disability for which he receives extra help at school. He begins having flashbacks about a different house, people he doesn't know, and about being in a river. He begins to wonder if he really belongs somewhere else, with someone else. He is relieved when he learns the whole story and finds out he really does belong with Mack.*

***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle & Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? **Yes No**

Evidence:

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? **Yes No**

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *Sam calls his grandfather Mack.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Mack has legal custody of Sam.*

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? **Yes No**

Evidence:

5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Mack has two close friends, Anima and Onji, who live very nearby and have helped him raise Sam.*

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence:

7. Does the grandparent work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Mack has his own woodworking shop.*

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Sam has a friend named Erik. He also enlists the help of Caroline, a classmate, to help him read the newspaper articles he found. He and Caroline are assigned to work on the castle project together and they become friends. Caroline is very cautious about making friends because her family moves a lot.*

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Sam's difficulty with reading sets him apart from the other kids and keeps him from feeling like he can reach out and get too close to his peers.*

10. Does the young adult work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *He sometimes helps Mack out in the shop, but doesn't have a paying job.*

11. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence:

12. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *Sam is sad that Caroline's family has to move again after he has just gotten to know her.*

**CONTENT ANALYSIS FORM**

Title: *Guyaholic: A Story of Finding, Flirting, Forgetting....and the Boy Who Changes Everything*

Author: *Carolyn Mackler*

Copyright/Publisher: *2007/ Candlewick Press*

Summary: *Vivienne Vail Valentine (V) has been moved around by her mother, Aimee, all of her life. When she is 17 her mother deposits her at the grandparents. V doesn't want to admit her relationship with Sam is serious. She is skittish about serious relationships.*

*When Aimee misses her graduation, V messes up her chances with Sam and she feels miserable. When Aimee suggests she come to Texas for a visit, V thinks she will finally have a good mother-daughter relationship with Aimee. It is only when she is let down again, that V realizes she can't let Aimee continue to dominate her thoughts and future.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Vivienne Vail Valentine (V)/ age 17*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *V has attended 17 different schools, four of them being high schools. V is involved in theater at this high school. Her grades improved once she moved in with her grandparents. She is crazy about Sam Almond but won't admit it. She drinks and smokes weed. She has bounced from one physical relationship to another but is afraid to get emotionally close to anyone.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *name and age are unknown (probably late 50s)*

Description of grandmother character: *V's grandmother wants to understand V. She is interested in what is going on in V's life and asks lots of questions. She has a job outside of their town. She has a daughter who is a year older than V.*

Name/age of grandfather character: *name and age are unknown (probably late 50s)*

Description of grandfather character: *V's grandfather is a dentist in the town they live in. He often calls her up to have lunch or invite her to go on a walk. He, like his wife, is interested in V's life. The grandparents seem to be parent characters in the story rather than grandparent characters.*

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year? Yes **No**

1-2 years? **Yes** No (18 months)

3-4 years? Yes **No**

More than 4 years? Yes **No** How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence:

Are there siblings there also? Yes **No**

Evidence:

### ***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

Yes **No**

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? Yes **No**

Evidence:

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? Yes **No**

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? Yes **No**

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes **No**

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

Yes **No**

Evidence:

**Questions that pertain to Mental & Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)**

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death Yes *No*
2. drug abuse Yes *No*
3. divorce Yes *No*
4. disease Yes *No*
5. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain): *Aimee, V's mother, was only 19 years old when she had V. Aimee's youth and immaturity are the reasons she left V with her parents.*

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

6. death Yes *No*
7. drug abuse Yes *No*
8. divorce Yes *No*
9. disease Yes *No*
10. imprisonment Yes *No*

other (explain): *V's biological father has been absent from the start. Aimee told V she barely knew him and she refers to him as the Sperm Donor.*

11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? Yes *No*

Evidence:

12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? Yes *No*

Evidence: *Her grandparents did try to get her into therapy after Aimee didn't show up for her graduation, but V refused to go.*

13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?

*Yes No*

Evidence: *V worried about whether or not her mom would show up to her graduation. Aimee promised to visit three times but V hadn't seen her in the entire 18 months she had been living with her grandparents. Each time V asks herself why she thought this time would be different than the other times.*

14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?

*Yes No*

Evidence: *He isn't present, but she occasionally wonders about him.*

15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents?

*Yes No*

Evidence: *The grandparents realize how much Aimee has let V down time after time. There is conflict when Aimee tells V she can drive to Texas to see her after the grandparents tell V she may not.*

16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) *Yes No*

Evidence: *The grandparents must deal with V's suspension from school for drug use. V feels like they are trying to convert her to the 'perfect' side of life. They are trying to get her to go to counseling when they see she has written "I HATE MYSELF" on her hand with permanent marker.*

17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? *Yes No*

Evidence: *They worry about V making this trip on her own. They buy her lots of gear to take with her.*

18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *V has had relationship issues as a result of the many different boyfriends she saw pass through her mom's life during her childhood. V hasn't had someone in her life to make things better because she's always been pretty much on her own emotionally. She doesn't feel like she is the kind of person who should try to settle down and create a real home. After a conversation with Aimee, in which Aimee tells V that the grandparents had tried to get her into counseling too, V finds out that if she had gone to the counseling Aimee may not have had V. As the story progresses, V considers that maybe Aimee sent her to live with the grandparents so V wouldn't turn out like she herself had.*

### ***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle & Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? **Yes No**

Evidence: *She has few female friends. Her relationships with males are only physical. She is very afraid to commit emotionally.*

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? **Yes No**

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *The are referred to as the grandparents.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? **Yes No**

Evidence: *V reminds them of this when they disagree with Aimee granting permission for V to drive to Texas. She tells them they can't tell her she can't go because they are not legal guardians.*

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? **Yes No**

Evidence:

5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *They are married and have interactions through their workplace.*

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence:

7. Does the grandparent work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *The grandfather is a dentist. The grandmother works in a different town, but the type of work is unknown.*

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *V has interactions with her peers at school and parties and with her aunt Mara who is 18 years old.*

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *She doesn't have a close friend in whom to confide.*

10. Does the young adult work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *V works at Pizza Hut.*

11. Are there other lifestyle & social issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence:

12. Are there other lifestyle & social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes** No

Evidence: *V likes to party. She drinks and does drugs when they are available.*

### CONTENT ANALYSIS FORM

Title: *Two Novels: Baby: Journey*

Author: *Patricia MacLachlan*

Copyright/Publisher: *Two Novels 2007/ Delcorte Press*

*Journey originally published 1991*

Summary: *Eleven year old Journey has a hole in his life from where his mother left him and his sister with their grandparents. He is searching for answers. He finds pictures that were taken of his early childhood, but had been torn to pieces by his mother.*

*Journey's grandfather, a farmer and photographer, tries to make up for these losses by taking new pictures of friends and family to capture new memories. Journey realizes that while he and Cat weren't enough of a reason for his mom to stay, they weren't the cause either. He wishes that his mom would have realized that things don't have to be perfect to be good enough.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Journey / age 11*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Journey is very angry at, and disappointed with his mom for leaving. He has a good eye for photo shots. When things bother him, he is a thinker. His grandma calls him introspective. He looks like his grandfather did when he was a boy. Journey saves the money his mom sends them to start a Travel Account to use when his mom asks them to come to visit.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Cat/ age unknown (older than Journey)*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Cat gave up photography, the flute, meat, and mama's sweatshirt. She works when things bother her. She is a "woman of action". She is not introspective. Cat looks like both grandma and mama when they were younger.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *Lottie / age unknown*

Description of grandmother character: *Grandma likes to garden. She is a doer, not a thinker when things bother her. She is quiet and secretive. Grandma doesn't like cats because they disturb the birds. Bloom changes her mind about cats. Grandma needs Bloom.*

Name/age of grandfather character: *Marcus/ age unknown*

Description of grandfather character: *Grandpa takes photographs when he is frustrated. He takes pictures to capture the way things really are, and also so Journey will have something to look back on. Grandpa builds a darkroom to develop the pictures he takes. He wants Journey to learn to drive so he can take pictures from the moving car. He is crazy about taking family portraits with the timer on the camera. He is a tall and blunt, a self-described photographer-farmer.*

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year? **Yes** No

1-2 years? Yes **No**

3-4 years? Yes **No**

More than 4 years? Yes **No** How many? \_\_\_\_\_ Evidence:

Are there siblings there also? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Cat and Journey are both young adult grandchildren living with their grandparents.*

***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

**Yes No**

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? **Yes No**

Evidence:

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? **Yes No**

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? **Yes No**

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes No**

Evidence:

***Questions that pertain to Mental and Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)***

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death **Yes No**

2. drug abuse **Yes No**

3. divorce **Yes No**

4. disease **Yes No**

5. imprisonment **Yes No**

**other** (explain): *Journey and Cat's mother left when Journey was 11. Once the children's father left, there wasn't enough there to keep her. The children weren't enough. The book doesn't specifically say they got a divorce.*

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

6. death **Yes No**

7. drug abuse **Yes No**

8. divorce **Yes No**

9. disease **Yes No**

10. imprisonment **Yes No**

**other** (explain): *The children's father left the family, but the exact time is unknown. The family of four had lived with the grandparents since the children were little and the grandparents were helping to raise them. After the father left, for unspecified reasons, the mother left also.*

11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? **Yes No)**

Evidence:



12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? **Yes No**

Evidence: *The kids are simply dealing with this as they do other problems, Cat works more, and Journey thinks. No mention is made of them getting counseling.*

13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *Journey is stressed by the envelopes she sends without words, just money. He wants an explanation about why she left or why she tore up the pictures. When she called and talked to Journey, he tells her that they have a cat now that is a good mother and will stay with them forever. Cat is also stressed by the envelope without words, but she doesn't get upset, she just channels her energy into the work she was doing.*

14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *The father is not present at all, not through letters or any form of communication.*

15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents?

**Yes No**

Evidence:

16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) **Yes No**

Evidence:

17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Grandpa is trying to fill the gap that was left when mama tore up all the pictures from their childhood. He wants Journey to have something to look back on so he takes lots of pictures and builds a darkroom to develop the negatives from the pictures mama destroyed. Grandma misses her daughter and is sad about that. She works when she is worried which is why her garden is twice the size as the year before.*

18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Journey feels responsible for mama leaving because he wasn't good enough. He needs someone to blame, but doesn't feel right blaming his mother. Journey remembers things from his past and realizes that it was his grandfather who picked him up when he fell and played with him. All along he'd thought those memories were of his parents taking care of him. He finally realized that his mom isn't coming back, and it isn't his fault. There isn't much more information about what Cat is thinking.*

### ***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle and Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? **Yes No**

Evidence:

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? **Yes No**

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *Cat and Journey call them Gran or Grandma and Grandpa.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? **Yes No**

Evidence:

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? Yes *No*

Evidence:

5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? Yes *No*

Evidence: *They have each other.*

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same age peers? Yes *No*

Evidence:

7. Does the grandparent work? Yes *No*

Evidence: *They both work on the farm.*

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? Yes *No*

Evidence: *They have each other and their neighbor and friend, Cooper.*

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same age peers? Yes *No*

Evidence:

10. Does the young adult work? Yes *No*

Evidence:

11. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the grandparent experiences? Yes *No*

Evidence:

12. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?  
Yes *No*

Evidence:

## CONTENT ANALYSIS FORM

Title: *Heart of a Shepherd*

Author: *Rosanne Parry*

Copyright/Publisher: *2009/ Random House*

Summary: *Brother has lived on an Oregon ranch with his grandparents, four older brothers and dad since he was five years old. When his dad gets sent to Iraq for 14 months and his brothers are away at school, Brother is left with the Grands to take care of things. Brother has more responsibility for ranch decisions and feels the absence of his father and many neighbors. Following a fire which was started by lightning and the death of his grandfather, Brother decides he wants to join the Army as part of the Chaplin Corp.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Ignatius Alderman (Brother)/ age 11*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Brother loves to play chess with his grandfather. He has a soft spot for animals and delivers a calf for the first time. He gets thrown off his horse, Spud, when Spud gets spooked by a rattlesnake. Brother takes very seriously his mission when his dad leaves for Iraq: to take care of the ranch and to have it be there, the same, when dad comes back. He is a loyal friend and a hard worker.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *Mrs. Alderman/ age unknown*

Description of grandmother character: *Grandmother was in the Army Reserves for 30 years but was never called up. She is a vet from WWII and a good mechanic. She is Catholic. As the youngest child in her family, she has a special understanding for Brother.*

Name/age of grandfather character: *Mr. Alderman/ age unknown*

Description of grandfather character: *Grandfather is the chess champ of the family. He is a cattleman by trade. As a Quaker and a pacifist, he writes to his senator opposing the war. He is a member of the NRA and a good marksman. He used to be an army medic. Each Sunday he writes to other Quaker pastors. He keeps a journal in which he documents the weather, Bible quotes, his thoughts about those quotes, and prayers for his loved ones.*

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year? **Yes No**

1-2 years? **Yes No**

3-4 years? **Yes No**

More than 4 years? **Yes No** How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence: *The total length of time will be 14 months, but that entire time isn't covered in this book.*

Are there siblings there also? **Yes No**

Evidence: *The other four brothers are older and are away at school. Brother is the only one left on the ranch with the grandparents.*

### ***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

**Yes No**

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Grandpa's hands are a little shaky and his appetite is weaker. When the older brothers are home to visit, they notice grandpa looks very tired and skinny.*

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? **Yes No**

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? **Yes No**

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Grandpa dies of a heart attack near the end of the book.*

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes No**

Evidence:

### ***Questions that pertain to Mental and Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)***

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death **Yes No**

2. drug abuse **Yes No**

3. divorce **Yes No**

4. disease **Yes No**

5. imprisonment **Yes No**

other (explain): *Mother moved away when Brother was 5 years old to sell her paintings in New York. She has since moved to Rome, Italy.*

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

- 6. death                      Yes *No*
- 7. drug abuse              Yes *No*
- 8. divorce                  Yes *No*
- 9. disease                  Yes *No*
- 10. imprisonment        Yes *No*

other (explain): *Father was deployed to Iraq for 14 months.*

- 11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? Yes *No*

Evidence: *Brother is anxious about the many responsibilities he has to his family as he takes care of the ranch. He must make decisions about the branding and how he is going to get that done without his father and brothers there. There aren't even many neighbors around since so many were deployed with his father. He feels the weight of the responsibilities his father has to keep his soldiers safe.*

- 12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? Yes *No*

Evidence: *Brother doesn't talk to anyone about how he feels about his dad leaving for Iraq. They've decided they won't share any problems with their dad when they talk to him on the phone, so he doesn't worry. Brother keeps all of his stress inside. No mention is made of him getting any counseling.*

- 13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

- 14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?

Yes *No*

Evidence: *It is the absence of his father that is stressful for Brother.*

- 15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

- 16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) Yes *No*

Evidence: *They are teaching Brother to run the ranch.*

- 17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes *No*

Evidence: *The grandparents have the stress of having a son who is at war and they are trying to run the ranch while being short-handed in his absence. Not only is their son gone, but many of the neighbors were also deployed so there isn't even that network of help to draw from.*

18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Brother wants everyone to know that he and grandpa are not too young or too old to keep the ranch running. He feels a great deal of stress about getting the branding done with fewer people to help. Brother feels guilty when the parents of his friends come home early from Iraq because they got hurt when they followed orders given by his father. Brother feels guilty when the ranch burns down, even though the cause was lightning. He also feels like there should have been something he could have done to save his grandpa. When his dad comes home for his grandpa's funeral, Brother is worried that he let them down because his mission was to take care of the ranch and have it be the same upon his father's return.*

### ***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle and Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? **Yes No**

Evidence:

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? **Yes No**

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *They are called grandpa and grandma, but collectively they are referred to, by the older brothers, as the Grands.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? **Yes No**

Evidence:

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? **Yes No**

Evidence:

5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *They have each other, friends from church, and neighbors.*

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence:

7. Does the grandparent work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *They work very hard on the ranch.*

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Brother has friends at school, Paco and Rosita.*

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Brother feels isolated from his friends because of the circumstances that resulted in their parents being injured in Iraq.*

10. Does the young adult work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Brother does not get paid, but he works very hard on the ranch.*

11. Are there other lifestyle & social issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence:

12. Are there other lifestyle & social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes No**

Evidence:

## CONTENT ANALYSIS FORM

Title: *Paint the Wind*

Author: *Pam Munoz Ryan*

Copyright/Publisher: *2007/ Scholastic*

Summary: *Following the death of her very strict paternal grandmother, Maya finds herself on a ranch in Wyoming with the maternal grandfather she doesn't remember ever meeting. Along with her grandpa, a great-uncle, great-aunt, and ornery cousin, Maya learns to love the outdoor life her mother loved. After a search for a wild horse finds Maya injured in an earthquake and lost for a week she makes a difficult decision about the beautiful horse she has come to love.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Maya / age 11*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Maya remembers only a few snippets of things about her mother. Maya has red hair, violet eyes and a love of horses. She is used to living with a very demanding grandmother and tells lies easily when it suits her needs. She is nervous about meeting her grandfather but soon learns there is no place for lies and irresponsibility with the horses.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *Agnes Menetti / age 88*

Description of grandmother character: *Maya's paternal grandmother was a very difficult woman to please. She was demanding of Maya and of the housekeepers and allowed no playing. She would move Maya to a different school if she thought there was any fun or frivolity going on. She blamed Maya's mother for the death of her son and had Maya's mother cut from any photographs in the house. Agnes lied to her lawyer, telling him that Maya was spending every summer with her other grandfather as were the wishes of Maya's parents. In reality, Maya was rarely allowed to leave the house except for a weekly trip to the library.*

Name/age of grandfather character: *Walter Limner (Moose)/ age unknown*

Description of grandfather character: *Moose was a tall burly man with sandy brown hair. He was patient with Maya as she learned how life at camp ran. He was not embarrassed about getting emotional when he met Maya at the airport when she first arrived.*

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year? **Yes** No *(only a few months with her grandfather)*

1-2 years? **Yes** No

3-4 years? **Yes** No

More than 4 years? **Yes** No **How many?** *6 years with her grandmother*

Evidence: *The story starts with Maya's life with her grandmother. Within the first chapters her grandmother dies and Maya goes to live with her grandfather.*

Are there siblings there also? **Yes** No

Evidence:

### ***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

**Yes** No(2)

Evidence: *Maya's grandmother does walk with a cane, but there is no evidence that this is what keeps her from caring for Maya.*

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Grandmother walks with a cane and at the age of 88 dies of a stroke. Moose does not have any age related health issues.*

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? **Yes No**

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? **Yes No**

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No(2)**

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *There are no real physical health issues although Maya invents a dog allergy and high altitude sickness to get out of going to Sweetwater Camp.*

### ***Questions that pertain to Mental and Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)***

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death **Yes No**

2. drug abuse **Yes No**

3. divorce **Yes No**

4. disease **Yes No**

5. imprisonment **Yes No**

other (explain):

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

6. death **Yes No**

7. drug abuse **Yes No**

8. divorce **Yes No**

9. disease **Yes No**

10. imprisonment **Yes No**

other (explain):

11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? **Yes No**

Evidence:

12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? **Yes No**

Evidence: *A lot of time has passed since Maya's parents died, so we don't know if she had counseling for that. There isn't time for counseling between the time of her grandmother's death and going to live with her grandfather on the ranch. No mention is made of her getting counseling once she gets there.*

13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *The mother is not present.*

14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *The father is not present.*

15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *Maya's grandmother never got over her son's death and blamed it on her daughter-in-law. Her grief continued to cause her tremendous pain even 6 years after his death. The fact that she blamed Maya's mother made it impossible for Maya to be close to her grandmother. Maya's grandfather does not experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents.*

16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) **Yes No(2)**

Evidence:

17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Maya's grandmother is still grieving the loss of her son. She is very overprotective of Maya. Agnes is determined that Maya will grow up to be like the well-mannered, well-educated son she lost and not like the uncultured woman her son married. Maya's grandfather does not show evidence of other mental or emotional health issues.*

18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Maya experiences stress over her grandmother's intolerance to anything pertaining to Maya's mother. She is angry at her grandmother for cutting her mother out of every picture in the house and for destroying all of her father's paintings.*

### ***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle and Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Maya and her cousin, Payton, have difficulty getting along with each other when they first meet. Maya lies whenever it suits her needs. She lies to get back at Payton and to get back at some of grandmother's housekeepers.*

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? **Yes No(2)**

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *Maya uses the name Grandmother to refer to that grandparent. When she arrives at the ranch, Moose invites her to call him Moose, or to call him Grandpa when she is ready. She eventually calls him Grandpa.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? **Yes No(2)**

Evidence: *There is a legal custodial relationship. It isn't until Maya's grandmother dies that it becomes known that she has not been complying with the wishes of Maya's parents. Maya was supposed to be spending the summers with her mother's family in Wyoming.*

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? **Yes No(2)**

Evidence:



5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *There is no evidence that Maya's grandmother has any interaction with peers. Maya's grandfather has two siblings that are near his age that he interacts with on a regular basis.*

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *The grandmother only saw the maid and her lawyer and had no close relationship with anyone. Maya's grandfather had regular interactions with his brother and sister.*

7. Does the grandparent work? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Maya's grandmother does not work. Maya's grandfather works on the ranch.*

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Maya attended school and interacted with same-age peers, but had no close friends. When she moved in with her grandfather, she had to share the camp experience with her cousin, Payton.*

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Maya admits that she is perfectly content being alone, and that she doesn't know how to be around boys.*

10. Does the young adult work? **Yes No**

Evidence:

11. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Maya's grandmother lived a very isolated life, not having the same social activities she had had before her son died. Prior to his death she had traveled, attended luncheons and even volunteered. There is no evidence of other lifestyle or social issues the grandfather experiences.*

12. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Maya does not know how to handle teasing from Payton. She has to make the adjustment from the strict, sterile life with her grandmother to the relaxed life with her grandfather. This new life held many new experiences and responsibilities for Maya.*

## CONTENT ANALYSIS FORM

Title: *It's Only Temporary*

Author: *Sally Warner*

Copyright/Publisher: *2008/ Penguin Group*

Summary: *When Skye's older brother suffers a traumatic brain injury in a car crash, Skye is sent to live with her paternal grandmother. She makes friends with the kids in the art class and a girl next door named Maddy. A group of 8<sup>th</sup> grade boys bully the art class kids and Skye thinks of a way to get revenge. Throughout their separation, Skye and her brother become reacquainted through regular emails that start as part of Scott's physical therapy.*

Name/age of young adult (grandchild) character: *Skye McPhee/ age 12*

Description of young adult (grandchild) character: *Skye is a quiet girl who wants remain as invisible as possible at her new school. She can easily get lost in her art. She finds the courage to stand up for one of her new friends when he is bullied.*

Name/age of grandmother character: *name and age are unknown*

Description of grandmother character: *Skye's grandmother is a nutrition expert who cooks foods that are unusual to Sky. She eventually begins to include foods that Skye likes, like ketchup. She is an optimistic person who is hopeful that Scott will get better.*

Name/age of grandfather character: *none present*

Description of grandfather character:

How long has the grandparent been the primary caregiver?

Less than 1 year? *Yes* No (3 months, so far)

1-2 years? Yes *No*

3-4 years? Yes *No*

More than 4 years? Yes *No* How many? \_\_\_\_\_

Evidence:

Are there siblings there also? Yes *No*

Evidence:

### ***Questions that pertain to Physical Health (evidence for hypothesis two)***

1. Does limited mobility of the grandparent interfere with caring for the grandchild?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

2. Does the grandparent have age related health issues? Yes *No*

Evidence:

3. Does the young adult have asthma or an asthma related illness? Yes *No*

Evidence:

4. Does the young adult have ADD/ADHD or problems concentrating? Yes *No*

Evidence:

5. Are there other physical health issues the grandparent experiences? Yes *No*

Evidence:

6. Are there other physical health issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

Yes *No*

Evidence:

**Questions that pertain to Mental and Emotional Health (evidence for hypothesis three)**

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological mother's:

1. death                      Yes **No**
2. drug abuse                Yes **No**
3. divorce                    Yes **No**
4. disease                    Yes **No**
5. imprisonment            Yes **No**

other (explain): *Skye is with her grandmother due to the brain injury her brother suffered and during the rehab time he will have. Her parents thought it would be less disruptive for her to be living and going to school elsewhere.*

Is the grandchild with the grandparent due to the biological father's:

6. death                      Yes **No**
7. drug abuse                Yes **No**
8. divorce                    Yes **No**
9. disease                    Yes **No**
10. imprisonment           Yes **No**

other (explain): *Skye is with her grandmother due to the brain injury her brother suffered and during the rehab time he will have. Her parents thought it would be less disruptive for her to be living and going to school elsewhere.*

11. Does the young adult suffer from depression or anxiety? Yes **No**

Evidence:

12. Is counseling or therapy for the young adult not presented as an option to cope with depression or anxiety? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Skye talks with a social worker for just a few moments when they go visit Scott. No mention is made once she gets to her grandma's about talking to someone about how she is feeling.*

13. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological mother's presence?

Yes **No**

Evidence:

14. Does the young adult experience stress due to the biological father's presence?

Yes **No**

Evidence:

15. Do the grandparents experience stress due to conflicts with the biological parents?

Yes **No**

Evidence:

16. Do the grandparents experience stress due to internal role conflict? (wanting to be the 'fun' grandparents vs. having to enforce the rules as the parent) Yes **No**

Evidence:

17. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes**

**No**

Evidence: *She is worried about Scott's recovery and can't get much information from Skye's parents about how he is doing.*

18. Are there other mental and emotional health issues the young adult grandchild experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Skye is angry with Scott for getting hurt and with her parents for fighting. She also worries about all of the fighting that they do. She hears about it from Scott but isn't there to do anything. Skye's feelings are hurt because her best friend from back home, Hana, doesn't email like she promises to.*

***Questions that pertain to Lifestyle & Social (evidence for hypothesis four)***

1. Does the young adult have problems getting along with others? **Yes No**

Evidence:

2. Does the name a young adult calls the grandparent create confusion for the grandchild or other characters? **Yes No**

Evidence and example of name chosen to call grandparent: *Skye calls her grandmother Gran.*

3. Does the grandparent have an informal (not legal) custodial relationship? **Yes No**

Evidence:

4. Do custody issues interfere with the grandparent being able to obtain school-related or medical needs for their grandchild? **Yes No**

Evidence:

5. Does the grandparent have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *Skye tells Scott that she thinks that their grandmother has a boyfriend.*

6. Does the grandparent feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence:

7. Does the grandparent work? **Yes No**

Evidence:

8. Does the young adult have interactions with same-age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence: *She has friends in the art class. Her interactions with the bullies occur throughout the story. She has to apologize to them in the end for altering their pictures.*

9. Does the young adult feel isolated from same age peers? **Yes No**

Evidence:

10. Does the young adult work? **Yes No**

Evidence:

11. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the grandparent experiences? **Yes No**

Evidence:

12. Are there other lifestyle and social issues the young adult grandchild experiences?

**Yes No**

Evidence: *She tries to keep herself isolated emotionally from the kids at school because she thinks as this situation as only being temporary. She becomes friends with the kids in the art class, so this attempt at isolation doesn't really work. She has problems with bullies because she hangs out with the kids from the art class, not because she lives with her grandmother. When the bullies take her sketchpad to get back at Skye for what she drew in the homecoming paper, Skye is worried she will lose her new friends if they see the pictures she drew when she first moved there.*